Hafa Adai!

PSS students share positive experience in AHLEI program. PAGE 2
CHCC employees successfully complete DELPH program. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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ON TRUMP ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Palacios: I condemn the violence

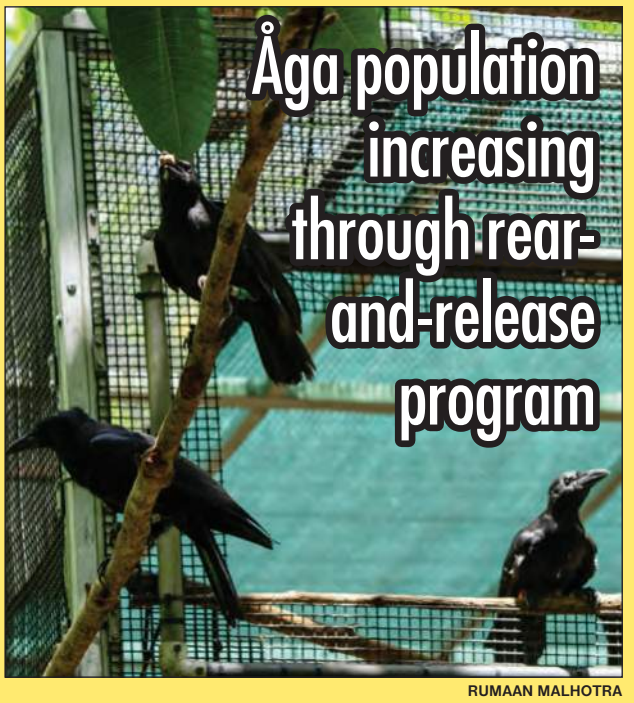
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

The assassination attempt on former president and presumptive Republican Party presidential candidate Donald Trump shocked the world and with the news still ringing in the ears of many (like those in remote islands like the CNMI), CNMI leaders are making one thing clear; this kind of violence is detested in the CNMI.

See PALACIOS on Page 4

PATH TO DELISTING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES



RUMAAN MALHOTRA
The Mariana crow (*corvus kubaryi*), known in Chamorro as "åga," in captivity.

Åga enthusiasts can rejoice as the species reached an important milestone recently. The Mariana crow (*corvus kubaryi*), known in Chamorro as "åga," has been listed as an endangered species in the Marianas since 1984.

Though once plentiful, the introduction of the brown tree snake to Guam in the 1940s led to their decline and listing, with the population on Luta being the last remaining of what had been

See ÅGA on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO
From left, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres, and CNMI Customs and Border Patrol's Col. James Atalig meet for a press conference last Friday at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Department of Corrections intercepted 111 grams of crystal methamphetamine from entering DOC, after finding the drugs on an arrestee during a protocol search last Thursday.

DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres held a press conference to brief the community about the discovery last Friday at DOC in Susupe. Joining Torres for the meeting were Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas and CNMI Customs and Border Patrol's Col. Jesse Atalig.

During the presscon, Torres shared

See OVER on Page 4

GOP calls for economic policies to revive Tinian's tourism industry

San Nicolas

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Republican Party is calling for sound economic policies to revive the tourism industry on Tinian and its efforts have been joined by Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian).

San Nicolas has announced that he is joining CNMI Republican Party president Diego T. Benavente in advocating for sound economic policies aimed at reviving the CNMI tourism industry.

See GOP on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
McDonald's of Guam & Saipan has promoted Gisel Achas to general manager of its Middle Road location effective July 16, 2024.
PAGE 10

NATION
Former President Donald Trump was the target of an apparent assassination attempt Saturday at a Pennsylvania rally, days before he was to accept the Republican nomination for a third time.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
Richard Simmons, television's hyperactive court jester of physical fitness who built a mini-empire in his trademark tank tops and short shorts by urging the overweight to exercise and eat better, died Saturday.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

PSS students share positive experience in AHLEI program

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Students who received their Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute Hospitality START program certificates pose for a photo with members of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, the Public School System Cooperative Education Program, and Island Training Solutions last June 18 at Saipan World Resort.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute, in collaboration with the Public School System Cooperative Education Program and Island Training Solutions, successfully certified another 63 students from Saipan in this year's American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute Hospitality START program.

At the graduation ceremony last June 18 held at Saipan World Resort in Susupe, *Saipan Tribune* was able to speak to five of the graduates on the reasons why they chose hospitality and the reason the course appealed to them so much.

Eighteen-year-old Lynna Kaipat shared that hospitality had a huge impact on her life.

"I was really looking forward to working in the hospitality industry," she said while sharing that she especially was interested in being a receptionist and interacting with people. "To me, that was, like, a dream job. So, my teacher, Vicky Benavente, I really learned a lot from her. Customer service, guest service, like, everything. It was really a wonderful experience, and having to go on field trips, and seeing everything firsthand."

Kaipat that she is looking to working in the hospitality in the future and shared that she would encourage her peers to at least try it out, especially in the AHLEI program. "It might not be for everybody, but if you're interested in it, you should definitely take it."

Kagman High School's Nyaoli Agbanlog shared with *Saipan Tribune* how she was introduced to the course. "So, I heard a lot about it from other people in my school and I heard about a certificate that we can get and after learning of the benefits and opportunity, I thought I'd join," said the 17-year-old. "I really, really enjoyed this class. I think mostly because of my teacher, Ms. Benavente. She's like the best. I recommend it, like 100%. I learned a lot, and I think it like really shaped my career choices."

Keth Kat Soriano, from Marianas High School, was one of the students who completed the course with honors. She told *Saipan Tribune* she had known about the program from her school counselor.

"Since I was a sophomore, I've been really interested in hospitality. It's just that there was never a chance for me to take a class until this came up."

She then shared her experience in the course, "I honestly loved every part of it. My teacher, Mr. Larry (Lee), he was very funny, and I liked that the class was very, very exclusive and friendly. I'm actually glad that I was able to finish it. I feel very accomplished to be able to finish this with the rest of my peers. It was really something to look forward to every day. Through this, I found out that in the future, I would like to work in hospitality, possibly front desk at a hotel."

Saipan Southern High School's Jyler Brent Villar and Mechaella Faye De Ramos were also two honor graduates in the program. They shared their reasons for taking the hospitality course as well.

"When I first took a look at this course, I thought of my resume. When I started out my resume, it was pretty bleak and I wanted to find ways to help build my resume. So, at least in the future, I'm set to actually get a job easier. In terms of like, what's called, a lot of jobs needing at least experience before you get accepted. So, what brought me to this course was purely just to help me out in the future, " said 15-year-old Villar

See PSS on Page 4

CHCC employees successfully complete DELPH program

Since the inaugural Diverse Executives Leading in Public Health cohort in 2021, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has been proud to have employees selected as scholars each year including this year's 2024 cohort.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials partnered with the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of medicine, to establish the Diverse Executives Leading in Public Health program. The DELPH program aims to enhance participants' visibility and presence within public health systems, expand their professional networks, and offer valuable leadership development opportunities.

CHCC's DELPH scholars are:

■ Halina Palacios, MPH, chief operations officer for Population Health (Cohort 1)

■ Heather Pangelinan, BS, director of Public Health Services (Cohort 2)

■ Amber Mendiola, BS, administrator for Non-communicable Disease Program (Cohort 3)

■ Emman Parian, BHS, MH, Immunization Program manager (Cohort 4)

As a member of the inaugural DELPH cohort, Palacios reflects on her experience with three key lessons: Be present, own your space, and recognize the privilege of having someone believe in your potential as a leader. She emphasizes that once you embrace and inhabit that space, it becomes your responsibility to inspire, motivate, and create opportunities for others to step into leadership roles.

"Being a leader is not in anyone's job description or requirement, but it is a part of our responsibility when moving in a forward direction", said Palacios. "We are in these positions to advocate, build, and strengthen our healthcare system and the health of our people. Often times this means taking the first step in unchartered territories or paving what has for the longest time been a kaskau' road, because our people don't just need better but they deserve it," she added.

The DELPH program is designed to be a 10-month cohort program accommodating up to 32 participants. Throughout the program, participants attend monthly virtual sessions, a cohort retreat, and an ASTHO leadership meeting. They also complete self-study modules and take part in cohort discussions. Additionally, participants are expected to engage actively with an assigned mentor and executive coach, volunteer through association leadership opportunities, and serve as ambassadors to recruit and retain diverse leadership candidates for their agency.

Pangelinan's primary insight from participating in Cohort 2 of DELPH was how critical it is for Pacific Islanders, especially those from the CNMI, to be actively engaged in national convenings and conversations around policy and regulation. She underscores how essential it is to bring awareness and voice to the issues and unique challenges faced in our territory while at the same time highlighting many of the beautiful aspects of the CNMI that motivate us, our families, and our communities to continue to thrive.

Mendiola

Parian

Palacios

Pangelinan

"Like many before us, we have the power to continue making improvements in our community that impact not only our world today, but the lives of our children, grandchildren and generations to come," said Pangelinan.

"Participating in DELPH has helped shape the person that I am today and has strengthened my professional skills so that I can use them in creating the CNMI that we envision for our children," she added.

Upon graduating the program, Pangelinan has received an award certifying her role as a Diverse Executive Leader in Public Health by ASTHO and the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

During her time in DELPH, Mendiola expressed that the participation in the DELPH program provided an invaluable opportunity to network and learn from exceptional public health professionals at the national level. The experience of entering a room filled with like-minded individuals dedicated to improving community health and eliminating barriers to health injustice was truly awe-inspiring. Mendiola highlights that DELPH

See CHCC on Page 4

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400115

SUBMISSION DATE: August 08, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Rehabilitation of the Nursery Facility at Division of Agriculture, Kagman."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 08, 2024** at Technical Services Divi-sion, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 23, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **DLNR, Division of Agriculture Kagman Office, Saipan.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on July 30, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

/S/ SYLVAN O. IGISOMAR
Secretary of DLNR

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of July 12, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Hawaiian Rock Products Corporation dba Hawaiian Rock Products	5/10/2024 TMS-2024-045	Hawaiian Rock Products Quarry Expansion	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	Approved* 7/9/2024
2.	Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-066-R2	Commercial Parasailing & Water-Jet Crafts Activities	All Designated Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 7/10/2024
3.	J&K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J&K Marine Sports	6/6/2024 SLR-2023-092-R2	Commercial Wakeboarding, Kayaking & Snorkeling Activities (Wakeboarding & Kayaking Activities Terminated)	World Resort & Kanoa Resort to Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/28/2024
4.	Jijing A. Borja dba Jimmy Tour Adventure	6/20/2024 SLR-2024-061	Commercial Snorkeling Tour Operation	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 6/27/2024
5.	FSM Recycling Corporation	6/20/2024 SPI-2024-034-A1	Land Clearing, Excavation, Backfilling & Installation of Perimeter Fence	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved 7/9/2024
6.	Success International Corporation dba M&R Construction/Contractor	6/20/2024 SPI-2024-033-A1	Land Clearing, Excavation, Backfilling & Installation of Perimeter Fence	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved 7/9/2024
7.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	6/27/2024 SPI-2024-062	Agatan Stream/South Achugao Drainage & Road Improvements and Construction of Concrete Head Wall Inlet/Outlet & Swale Project	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Application Under Review*
8.	Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates	7/1/2024 SPIm-2024-063	Soil Investigation Report	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Certified Complete* 7/9/2024
9.	Marianas Sports Club, Inc. dba MSC	7/9/2024 SLR-2024-064	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
10.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	7/1/2024 RMS-2024-065	Rota Route 103 Improvement Project	Sinapalo, Rota	Major Siting	Application Under Review*
11.	Thanks Saipan Corporation	7/8/2024 SPIm-2024-066	Dry Dock	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 7/9/2024
12.	Windsurfing, Inc. dba Sea Wind Marine Club	7/3/2024 SSm-2024-067	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Certified Complete* 07/11/2024
13.	Environmental Health & Disease Prevention - Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (EHDP-CHCC)	7/8/2024 SPI-2024-068	Tanapag Cemetery/Traditional Clearing	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 7/10/2024
14.	Luana, Inc. dba Heart of Gold Divers	5/23/2024 SLR-2023-052-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instruction & Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Tabled 7/10/2024

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

ÅGA

From page 1

a thriving species. The good news: in June this year, 23 hand-reared åga were released back into the jungles of Luta, marking the sixth Åga release on the island. Home to the last population of this critically endangered species, the only crow in Micronesia has declined on Luta since the 1980s, prompting the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources and partners to take action.

"The åga are unique among birds," explained Dr. Sarah Faegre, the lead biologist for the University of Washington's Mariana Crow Recovery Project. "They are extremely intelligent, good problem solvers, and highly adaptable. They are the only crow that knows how to peck open hermit crab shells and they also eat a variety of pests like paper wasp larva, centipedes, and have even been observed eating rats and pulling out the tongue of a cane toad. They can live for up to 25 years and have strong ties with family members."

To date, 85 åga have been released to the wild through a captive-rear-and-release program carried out on Luta by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, in partnership with the University of Washington, funded by CNMI-DLNR and USFWS. "Seventy-two percent of the åga we have released are still alive and thriving," said Faegre.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From page 1

According to international media outlets, Trump was the target of an assassination attempt over the weekend during a rally in Pennsylvania.

In a statement from the CNMI administration, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang renounced the acts committed against the former president.

"Lt. Gov. Apatang and I condemn the violence committed against former president Trump and others at a political gathering held [this weekend] in Pennsylvania," he said.

Palacios said it's cowardly acts like these that undermine the core values that make the United States of America great.

"We are glad that former president Trump is safe, and we offer our prayers to those who were fatally wounded or injured. Violence has no place in political discourse. We must renounce it at every chance, every opportunity we can to ensure that all members of our society—whether it's here in our Commonwealth or in our nation's capital—can express their political opinions and disagreements without fear or apprehension," he said.

In a statement from Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), she said the news is heartbreaking and the best thing to do is to pray for safety and peace in these violent times.

"It's sad to see such acts in our current time and losing innocent live(s) is just heartbreaking. While we are given the liberties to exercise our freedom, we must also pray for safety and peace for all nations and their people," she said.

Saipan Tribune has reached out to both the CNMI Republican Party and the NMI Democratic Party, but both have yet to issue official statements as of press time.

According to the Associated Press, the assassination attempt on Trump comes days before he was to accept the Republican nomination.

As he spoke during the Pennsylvania rally, shots were fired in the crowd with a bullet grazing the top of Trump's ear.

Although Trump sustained a minor injury because of the attack, one man was killed while two others were critically injured according to authorities.

Meanwhile, the White House said President Joe Biden, who is running against Trump, spoke to Trump several hours after the shooting.

"There's no place in America for this type of violence. It's sick. It's sick." the president said in public remarks.

The FBI has identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. The agency said the investigation remains active and ongoing.

Secret Service agents fatally shot Crooks, who attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue at a farm show in Butler, Pennsylvania, the FBI said.

OVER

From page 1

that the bags containing the ice were revealed inside the Pelican case of James B. Camacho, a case he had been carrying at the time. The crystallized rocks were already measured into several Ziploc baggies, and along with the drugs, officers found a scale and pipe as well as a bundle of cash. The "ice" itself amounted up to approximately 111 grams, with an estimated street value of $34,000. Torres said that it is still under investigation whether or not Camacho was selling at the time of the arrest, but the amount he had on him, can cause speculation that he was.

Torres said that Camacho had been arrested after a bench warrant was put out for him failing to appear in drug court. Upon his apprehension Camacho had been asked by officers to search his property to which he declined. It was only when Camacho was arrested and brought to DOC, that the protocol search went about and the drugs discovered.

This significant seizure occurred Thursday night in the DOC booking area, marking the second drug bust just last week, and investigation on the matter continues.

The media asked Macaranas his thoughts and if the numbers of drugs found in the CNMI had gotten higher. Macaranas said that there are drugs busted at the border, but "sometimes these things slip through the cracks, which is sometimes beyond our control, and it's out of the street, and that's another way we started to find them out. But that does not stop us from doing our part, because eventually it's going to come back again, and we'll continue to stop it."

Macaranas, Atalig, and Torres commended the CNMI Customs and Border Patrol, as well as officers at DPS and DOC and all civil servants and community members fighting against the entrance of these drugs to the island; but they each shared that the work isn't complete and there was still a need for more vigilance.

"My officers right now are very vigilant, especially when it comes to this kind of drugs, and that's why we're actively having this K-9 trainings," said Macaranas while also crediting the drugs busted so far due to the efforts of law enforcement officers.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PSS

From page 2

De Ramos shared, "I was looking at classes I could take, since I was a senior at the time of applying. I figured that it's one of the classes I haven't taken yet, and it was a new course. So, I was like, why don't I try it out? So, I did, and I actually really enjoyed it. When I was first looking at the course, it was teaching about how to be hospitable to guests, I was just interested in that, and I decided to just take the plunge, and I found that I really enjoyed it." De Ramos added, "I think it's a really useful course. It teaches you a lot about things you can apply when you work in the hospitality industry. But not only that, you can apply it in your everyday life. Some of the lessons you learn from the course, you can definitely apply it not only in your jobs, but in your everyday life."

"If you're really interested or thinking about working with people, dealing with different ethnic groups, ages, all that, I suggest you start by having a liking to it. Because if you don't, it's going to be something you won't feel fulfilled in. Stick with something that will make you happy," said Villar

Out of the 63 graduates, 23 students earned honors by scoring 90% or above on the exam. Their accomplishments were celebrated in a ceremony at the Saipan World Resort last June 18, where they received AHLEI certification, a prestigious credential in the hospitality industry, recognized globally by hotels and resorts, from major chains to small boutique establishments.

Throughout the program, students were educated on 18 different hospitality roles, including front desk operations, housekeeping, banquets, and restaurant service. The semester-long course featured guest speakers, field trips, and work experience/shadowing at various island hotels. This elective course, part of the PSS Cooperative Education program led by Brandon Nicolas, who also gave the closing remarks, is available at all three public high schools on Saipan.

This spring semester marks the 10th anniversary of the AHLEI START program in PSS high schools, during which over 1,600 students have been certified. The class is facilitated by Island Training Solutions, AHLEI's partner in the CNMI.

GOP

From page 1

San Nicolas, an incumbent representative from Precinct 6, is running for reelection in the 2024 general elections under the CNMI Republican Party banner.

"I am deeply committed to answering president Benavente's call to implement sound economic policies that will revive and bolster our tourism industry," said San Nicolas.

"Our community depends heavily on tourism, and it is crucial that we develop strategies to attract visitors from diverse markets and stimulate economic growth," he added.

Having served two terms in the House of Representatives, San Nicolas has been a dedicated advocate for the needs of his constituents. He emphasizes the importance of revitalizing the tourism industry, which has faced significant challenges, particularly due to the decline in visitors from China.

Because of this, San Nicolas supports Benavente's vision for a robust and thriving tourism sector, recognizing its vital role in the overall economic health of the Commonwealth.

"Tourism is the lifeblood of our economy, and by focusing on sustainable and innovative policies, we can ensure long-term prosperity for our islands," he said.

San Nicolas said in relation to the CNMI Republican Party's efforts, he supports Commonwealth Ports Authority's request for an exemption from the U.S. Department of Transportation's China Order Part 213.

"The DOT exemption is crucial for the Northern Mariana Islands to regain access to the Chinese tourism market, a vital component of the CNMI's economy," he said.

San Nicolas said he also supports the implementation of the CNMI EVS-TAP program which would allow prescreened travelers from China to visit the CNMI without a visa under certain conditions, further facilitating the return of Chinese tourists.

In addition, San Nicolas endorses federal efforts to lower the cost of domestic air travel between Guam and the CNMI by creating a special cabotage exemption for foreign carriers.

This measure is expected to make travel more affordable and accessible, benefiting both residents and tourists.

In addition to tourism, San Nicolas remains dedicated to addressing the needs of small businesses and struggling residents.

"Fostering a supportive environment for small businesses and providing relief to those most in need are essential components of our economic strategy. Together, we can create a stronger, more resilient Commonwealth," he said.

San Nicolas expressed his enthusiasm for continuing to serve Precinct 6 and collaborating with Benavente and fellow party members to achieve their shared goals.

"I am inspired by president Benavente's leadership and vision, and I am eager to work with him to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our constituents," he said.

CHCC

From page 3

fostered a supportive "professional growth" family, offering space for support, skill development, and encouragement.

"Being a DELPH scholar is an invaluable opportunity to represent the Pacific Island communities I am blessed to serve, said Mendiola. "DELPH has edified my purpose to leave this world better than I found it—battling health inequities for the pacific. We are from Micronesia, but there's nothing "micro" about us," she added.

Mendiola was honored with the "Legacy Leader" award. The award is given to the DELPH scholar who seeks to create a meaningful impact within their organization and community fostering growth, mentoring future leaders, and establishing a culture of excellence and integrity. The Legacy Leader award recipient is voted on by the cohort and the ASTHO DELPH team.

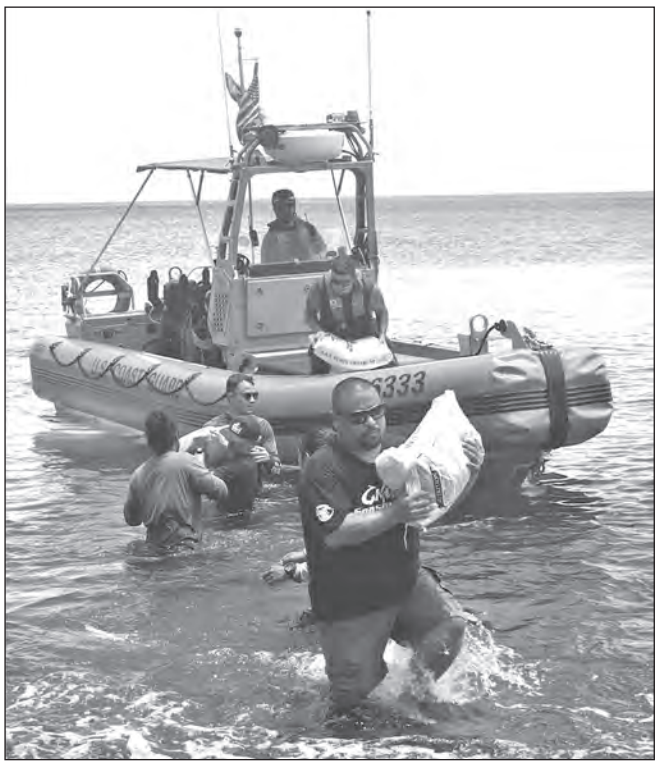
CHCC chief executive officer, Esther Muña, expresses pride in the organization's continued representation in the DELPH program. "We are thrilled that our talented employees have been recognized for their commitment to public health. Their participation in DELPH will not only advance their professional development but also bring innovative ideas and leadership skills back to our community."

Parian, member of Cohort 4, highlights the powerful and effective connections and conversations fostered by the program. Bringing together a group of motivated individuals, the program aims to make positive changes in their communities through genuine dialogue, enhancing each participant's professional and personal capacities.

"Participating in national programs like DELPH, increases the visibility of our jurisdiction and the Pacific Islands to help educate/provide awareness of our Public Health," said Parian. Parian has also been honored with "The Helper" superlative award, described as, "Need a helping hand, or have a question? This person is always swooping in with the assist."

The CHCC is committed to the development and growth of its employees. Investing in its employees is essential to the organization's overall success. Through comprehensive training programs, continuous educational opportunities, and clear career progression paths, CHCC stives to empower its employees to reach their full potential. By prioritizing the well-being and advancement of the workforce, CHCC not only enhances individual capabilities but also drives collective excellence. ***(PR)***

USCGC *Frederick Hatch* completes patrol period, strengthens regional security, community ties



USCG

The USCGC *Frederick Hatch* crew deliver supplies to Agrihan in the Northern Mariana Islands on June 19, 2024, while on patrol in the Western Pacific Ocean. The *Frederick Hatch* crew completed a highly operational patrol period from May 21 to July 1, 2024, demonstrating exceptional versatility and collaboration in maritime security and community engagement across the Pacific region.

SANTA RITA, Guam—The USCGC *Frederick Hatch* crew completed a highly operational patrol period from May 21 to July 1, 2024, demonstrating exceptional versatility and collaboration in maritime security and community engagement across the Pacific region.

Lt. Patrick Dreiss, the commanding officer of the Frederick Hatch, noted, "This patrol spanned multiple missions, from supporting our DoD partners to search and rescue to working alongside regional partners, highlighting how varied Coast Guard operations can be. As my last patrol as commanding officer, it was a fitting end to an incredible two and a half years in Guam, and I have very much enjoyed watching the successes of the crew during my time."

During the patrol, the crew took on an extended operations period while their sister ships were in maintenance, dedicating 46 hours to successfully escorting high-value naval assets in coordination with Naval Base Guam Security, Station Apra Harbor, and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC-25). This operational increase was a significant commitment to ensuring the security and readiness of these strategic assets, a task the crew executed with utmost professionalism and precision.

The cutter played a pivotal role in the first-ever Operation Irensia, enhancing regional cooperation alongside patrol boat crews from the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and partners from the Royal Australian Navy and Pacific Maritime Security Program in Guam. The crew's significant contributions to this operation are a testament to their dedication and professionalism. Additionally, the crew honored the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan by participating in the march and ceremony, holding eight community relations events that included tours and engagements with local women's and veterans' associations.

In a noteworthy display of support and partnership, the *Frederick Hatch* crew completed three anchorages in the CNMI Northern Islands, delivering essential supplies and conducting environmental surveys in collaboration with CNMI Fish and Wildlife. This effort supported local communities and contributed to critical ecological monitoring and conservation efforts.

On June 21, the crew, under the direction of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and in collaboration with Guam Fire Rescue and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC-25), conducted an extensive overnight search for a possible distressed swimmer near Gun Beach. The report was ultimately deemed a false alert, and the search suspended. The patrol also included intensive training exercises ranging from medical drills to ship handling and night operations training, significantly enhancing crew proficiency and readiness.

"The *Frederick Hatch* crew is at the forefront of our operations in Micronesia; under new leadership, they will continue to deliver on our mission for the people we serve in the Pacific," said Capt. Robert Kistner, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "In concert with *Oliver Henry*, while the *Myrtle Hazard* undergoes their first drydock maintenance, *Frederick Hatch* ensures our strategic readiness and response capabilities remain robust. This careful balancing of maintenance and mission readiness reflects our steadfast dedication to safeguarding maritime interests."

USCG

The USCGC *Frederick Hatch* crew conduct flare training in May and June 2024 while on patrol in the Western Pacific Ocean.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam protects maritime interests, ensuring security and fostering peace and prosperity across the Blue Pacific. Their operations span search and rescue, law enforcement, environmental protection, and national defense, maintaining close ties with local, regional, and international partners to uphold maritime safety and security standards.

The *Frederick Hatch* is the 43rd 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutter named for a surfman and lighthouse keeper who was a two-time Gold Life Saving Medal recipient. The service commissioned the ship along with its sister ships, *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) and *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140), in Guam in July 2021. They are also the 2023 Hopley Yeaton Cutter of the Year-Small Award winners for operational excellence. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a regular meeting is being called on Friday, July 19, 2024, and a continuation on July 31, 2024 (if needed), at 9:30 a.m. in the ARFF Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS: Call to Order and Roll Call.
   A. Adoption of Agenda
   B. Adoption of Minutes: May 9, 2024, June 7, 2024, June 18, 2024 and June 20, 2024.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

V. AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
   1. Supplemental Budget Requests:
      a. Tinian Airport Signage Project
      b. Tinian Airport Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL)
      c. Tinian Seaport personnel
   2. Board Sanctioning and Supplemental Budget Requests:
      a. Saipan Airport Tower Renovation Change Order No. 3
      b. Saipan Airport Tower Renovation CM Amendment No. 3
      c. Saipan Commuter Terminal Construction CM Amendment No. 1
   3. Financial Affairs Committee Report (with Grants and Internal Audit Report)

B. AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE
   1. Public Displays at CPA Facilities
   2. Car Rental Concessions:
      a. Saipan CPA-RFP-004-24 Authority Concession Grant CRS-2024-01–06
      b. Tinian CPA-RFP-005-24 Authority Concession Grant CRT-2024-07–10
      c. Rota CPA-RFP-006-24 Authority Concession Grant CRR-2024-11–13
   3. Airport Facilities Committee Report

C. SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE
   1. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc. (Request for Exclusivity)
   2. Seaport Facilities Committee Report

D. PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
   1. Amendment to Personnel Rules and Regulations
   2. Tinian Seaport Personnel Re-structure
   3. Tinian Seaport Position Descriptions:
      a. Supervisor, Operations/Maintenance
      b. Vessel Traffic Controller
      c. Tariff Technician I
   4. Comptroller Position
   5. Austerity
   6. Time and Attendance Presentation
   7. Personnel Affairs Committee Report

VI. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL MATTERS
   1. Executive Director's Report and Staff Presentations

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video conferencing is available via Zoom. ZOOM LINK: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

JOSE C. AYUYU
Chairman, Board of Directors

July 12, 2024

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: July 02, 2024 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary
2024-006	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	$90,000.00 to $100,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NMHC IFB 2024-011

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: August 29, 2024, 2:00 p.m..

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS) MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL (MHS) REHABILITATION PROJECT

Project Package will be available on July 15, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC Website at www.nmhcgov.net or the CDBG-DR Website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com "Procurement Tab".

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **July 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

One candidate is patently unfit for the White House. It's not Biden

Democrats are in crisis at the moment, divided over whether President Joe Biden should stay in the race after his disastrous debate last month or clear the way for another, younger candidate.

Biden's shaky performance raised concerns about whether he can win in November, and prompted calls from prominent Democrats, columnists and others for him to step aside. It's up to the Democratic Party to sort this out. But it's time to refocus attention on the only candidate in the race who is patently unfit for office—any office—and an imminent threat to democracy: Donald Trump.

It's unbelievable that the nation is spending so much time on the question of Biden's verbal acuity, when the greatest concern ought to be that his challenger is a self-aggrandizing felon and twice-impeached election-denier. Trump fomented the Jan. 6 insurrection, shows contempt for the rule of law and shamelessly lies in pursuit of more power. He's an authoritarian who admires murderous despots, wants to jail his political enemies and has publicly flirted with declaring himself a dictator on his first day back in office.

With fervent support from the Republican Party, he peddles cruelty, racism and misogyny, demonizing immigrants as "poisoning the blood of our country," demeaning women's looks and intelligence, and using disgustingly fascist language to criticize his opponents as "vermin." He's a man who lied about his wealth for years to cheat on his taxes, whose business was convicted of criminal tax fraud, and who's been denounced by many former aides and Cabinet members as a"malignant narcissist" who recklessly puts himself before the American people.

Trump is the only man in the presidential race manifestly unworthy of holding a position of power, and has no business ever returning to the White House. If the GOP had any decency left, its members would be discussing whether to dump Trump for a candidate who isn't out to bulldoze democratic institutions in favor of autocracy.

Voters should resist viewing this contest through the politics-as-usual lens of past elections. This November is not about dueling personalities, middle-of-the-road policy differences, or as some might see it, an 81-year-old man being the lesser of two evils compared with a 78-year-old man. It's nothing short of a referendum on our 248-year democracy, and a choice between a trustworthy public servant who upholds American values and a serial liar who wants to push the country into authoritarianism.

Leaders of the Democratic Party have to stop the self-defeating discussion about Biden's fitness and decide whether to replace him or unify behind him. And Americans must start hearing more about how the records, positions and character of Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and any of the prominent Democrats being floated as possible replacements make them all unquestionably superior to Trump.

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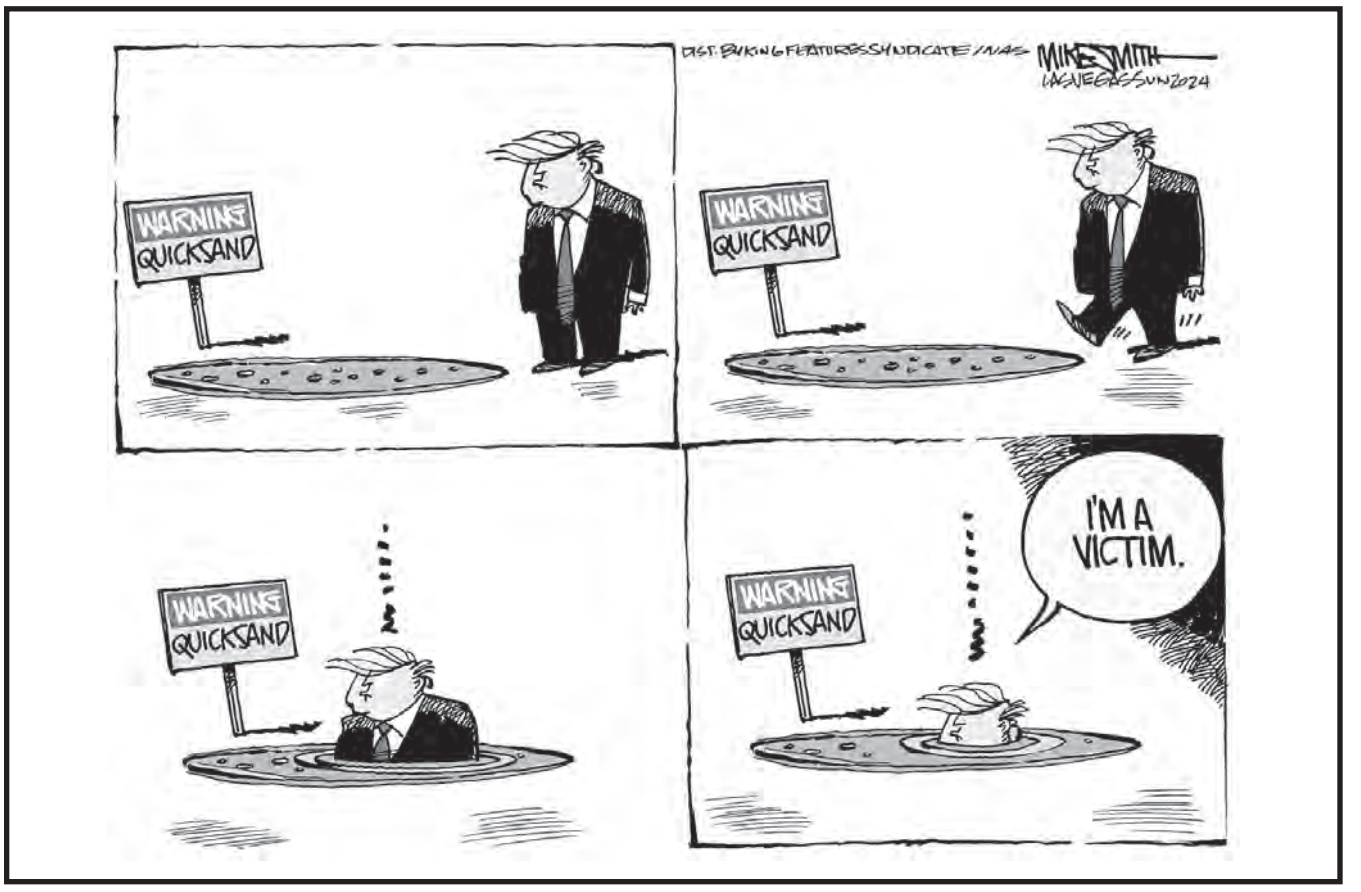


Will Trump's conviction survive the Supreme Court's immunity ruling? It's complicated

By HARRY LITMAN
Los Angeles Times

Harry Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast and the "Talking San Diego" speaker series. @harrylitman

It was only hours after the Supreme Court issued its staggering term-ending opinion on presidential immunity when Donald Trump invoked it in an attempt to set aside his criminal conviction in New York.

On the surface, the effort would seem ill-fated and even brazen.

The opinion made a top-line distinction between "official actions"—which are either immune or presumed immune from criminal prosecution—and "unofficial actions," which are not. And it's hard to imagine more prototypically unofficial actions than those of which Trump was convicted in the New York case. While still running for president, Trump devised a scheme to suppress stories of his alleged trysts—in particular with the adult film actor Stormy Daniels—and falsified business records to further the cover-up.

Most of the critical conduct took place before Trump was in office, the exception being the payments to his fixer, Michael Cohen, that generated the false paperwork. And the reimbursement of Cohen from a personal bank account was patently unofficial conduct even though it coincided with Trump's presidency.

So Judge Juan M. Merchan, who presided over the trial, might be expected to make quick work of Trump's effort to shoehorn the conviction into the sphere of "official action" for which the court prescribed immunity.

In fact, however, the court's opinion is strewn with mines and sinkholes that Trump might be able to use to gain a new trial or at least render his conviction provisional for an extended period. These facets of the opinion are part and parcel of its enormous scope and overreach, all to protect a party of exactly one: the only president ever to be charged with a crime.

The court's revolutionary holding places the president largely outside the reach of criminal law, but the conservative majority wasn't content to stop there. Its expansive guidance "for the ages," as Justice Neil M. Gorsuch put it at oral argument, dictates that a jury may not even consider a president's official acts as evidence to prove a crime involving unofficial conduct.

The court's reasoning here is particularly threadbare, simply asserting that allowing evidence of official actions would undo the protections of immunity, which the conservative majority considers necessary to ensure a nimble and vigorous presidency. Yet it makes little sense to suggest that a president would be constrained by the prospect that a jury might one day hear about their official actions. Most official actions are public anyway, and those that aren't can be protected by executive privilege and other means when there is a particular need to to so.

This is where Justice Amy Coney Barrett parted with her fellow conservatives, noting that "the Constitution does not require blinding juries to the circumstances surrounding conduct for which Presidents can be held liable."

In the context of Trump's motion to set aside his New York conviction, a fair-minded court should have little trouble concluding that the conduct at issue was unofficial and therefore not subject even to the generous immunity protections prescribed by the justices. However, some of the evidence presented at trial at least arguably concerned official conduct, particularly under the Supreme Court's wide-ranging, categorical definition of the term.

Most notably, the jury heard testimony from Hope Hicks about a conversation she had with Trump in 2018, when she was the White House communications director, about a report on Cohen's hush money payments to Daniels and its public opinion repercussions. Prosecutors described Hicks' testimony, which ended with her breaking down in tears, as "devastating."

So was Trump's conversation with Hicks in the White House "official conduct" that, under the immunity opinion, never should have been presented to the jury? And if so, do the convictions have to be set aside?

Those questions are far from straightforward. The answers depend not only on how the Hicks conversation is characterized but also on a thicket of procedural issues. Those include whether Trump may have waived the issue, whether any waiver applies under the Supreme Court's holding and whether any error in allowing the testimony could be deemed harmless given the strength of the rest of the evidence.

Trump's conviction may well survive the Supreme Court ruling in the end, but getting to that point won't be quick or simple. Moreover, Merchan's ruling is likely to be appealed to higher courts in New York and eventually the U.S. Supreme Court. That prospect could well temper the analysis of lower courts that now understand the breadth and zeal of the justices' determination to shield Trump from accountability.

It appears as if the Supreme Court has dealt Trump not just a get-out-of-jail-free card but a whole deck of them, allowing him to contest and delay multiple facets of the nearly 100 criminal counts against him. If it turns out that he can use it to his advantage in New York, where he stands already convicted of manifestly personal conduct, it's hard to imagine a case where he can't.

Lego was my son's world. It took me decades to see why—and to join him there

By ABBY MARGOLIS NEWMAN
Los Angeles Times

Abby Margolis Newman is a freelance writer in the Bay Area.@newmaniacs

Six decades after the age when most people do, I've become obsessed with Lego. My gateway drug was a set reminiscent of an ice cream truck. Like many parents, I was trying something new as a way to connect with one of my kids. Unlike many parents, in my case the kid in question was an adult, and I was building a set that he had designed.

My three boys were infatuated with building blocks as children, and my husband would play with them, teaching the concept of a "stable base." But I was the one alone with the kids day after day, enduring interminable and soul-crushing afternoons on the floor of the playroom. I remember when the boys were about 3, 7 and 8, feeling like it was an eternity until my husband would get home, and I was thinking: "Lego again? Didn't we just do this yesterday?" Those hours seemed to go on forever, but one day, impossibly, I blinked, and they were suddenly driving, procuring fake IDs and heading off to college.

Of the three, my middle child, Aaron, was the enigmatic one, the one I couldn't always understand. We moved from Ohio to the Bay Area when Aaron was in fifth grade, and the transition was almost too much for him. He'd always been change-averse; when I rearranged the furniture in our Ohio family room when Aaron was about 6, he was disconsolate, wailing for days like King Lear in the storm: "Why is everything different?"

The move to California caused him terrible angst; like a sad old turtle retreating into his shell, Aaron lived 24/7 in hoodies with the hoods pulled all the way up for almost a year. I look back at family photos from this time and my heart breaks to see his face, often filled with consternation rather than joy.

So how did Aaron find his equilibrium?

First of all, he discovered musical theater. As a teenager, he was in a dozen musicals at our local community theater. He and I saw Broadway shows together whenever we could: "Hamilton," "Anything Goes," "Dear Evan Hansen." To see Aaron discovering joy through musical theater was a delight (and a relief).

Secondly, Aaron continued building with Lego even as other kids his age outgrew it. During middle school, he found a group of similarly infatuated enthusiasts online who shared their original designs with each other. By the time he was in high school, he had discovered the "adult fans of Lego" community, and that was it for him: He'd found his people.

During college, he started accepting commission work ("Can you design and build a life-size Nike Jordan shoe out of Lego?" "Why, yes!" "How about creating a Balrog, the demonic monster from 'The Lord of the Rings'?" "You betcha!"). After graduating, he continued with larger and better-paying commissions, cobbling together a burgeoning career.

Aaron's dream, pretty much ever since he developed fine motor skills, was to work for Lego as a designer. But that would also mean moving to Denmark. After college, he'd begun to teach himself Danish—the kid had his eye on the prize—and, a few years after he graduated, he was hired by Lego.

He and his wife now live in Billund, Denmark, 5,368 miles from our home in the Bay Area.

Last fall, through a fluke of timing, Aaron and I got to spend a few special days together in New York, going to Broadway shows and to a bar in Greenwich Village for a big drunken showtunes singalong. But it was when we went to the Lego store at Rockefeller Center that I felt like I got a glimpse into the center of his soul. We saw sets he'd designed, and he told me about fellow designers when we checked out their sets. This was his place, these were his people, this was his life—or, at least, it was his foundation.

Thinking about it now, I realize the concept of the "stable base" that my husband taught him all those years ago has become a metaphor for Aaron's life: This world of interlocking bricks is where he feels the most calm, happy and competent. He needs things to make sense in the way Lego makes sense.

As much as those after-school hours all those years ago felt monotonous, I'd love to go back in time to when we all lived under one roof and when I, the boys' mom, was the big love of their lives, sitting on the floor of that playroom. Not forever, but just for a little while, armed with the insights I have now.

The time has gone too fast. In the meantime, I have a new and profound connection to Aaron, my sometimes-elusive one. When I dump out a bag of the little plastic bricks and start sorting through them, just the mere sound brings me back, to remember and to feel the essence of my son, however far away he might be.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please don't move Mr. Jones

I recently found out that important information has come to light. The reason why I'm writing this is because I believe in not only my voice but also the voice of my peers. Here are some reasons why Mr. Jones (Kagman High School principal) shouldn't move to a different school, there are several important factors to keep in mind. Firstly, Mr. Jones has built strong relationships with the staff, students, and families at your school. Moving to a different school could disrupt these connections and potentially impact the sense of community and support that has been established in our community.

Secondly, Mr. Jones has invested time and effort in understanding the specific needs and challenges of our school. Mr. Jones has proven to staff and students that he will do everything in his power to make us succeed. Mr. Jones continues to address these issues effectively and work towards sustainable solutions. This familiarity with the school environment has led to more impactful decision-making that benefits everyone involved.

Lastly, the stability and leadership Mr. Jones provides are crucial for the overall well-being of the KHS. His experience, knowledge, and vision have contributed to the positive growth and development of the school community. By remaining in his role, Mr. Jones can further encourage this progress and guide the school toward continued success and improvement.

Jass Dikito
KHS student

Rock and heart of KHS

Mr. Jones is an exceptional principal, and we, the students of Kagman High School, wholeheartedly wish to keep him.

Why? Because our principal, Mr. Ben Jones Jr., and the admin staff, Mrs. Norita and Mrs. Bondoc, are the rock and heart of KHS.

If you take them out, the school's heart will stop beating. Do we really want that? Mr. Jones motivates and educates us, keeping us on our feet and encouraging us to come to school and finish our education. His simple greetings, like "Good morning, how are you doing?" brighten up our day.

He even sits outside on a bench to connect with students during morning, lunchtime, and after school. Mr. Jones consistently checks in on us, making Kagman High School feel like a safe environment for everyone.

Losing him would be like ripping out the heart of our school—it's heartbreaking to consider. We don't want Mr. Jones to lose the school he's worked hard to improve. He makes us earn our fun times, and his efforts have significantly reduced drug and vaping use on campus. We're grateful for our KHS admin, who make our school an amazing and outgoing community. Please hear our plea!

KHS students
Via email

The Supreme Court has stacked the deck for MAGA

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was executive editor for the Week and a writer for Rolling Stone.

It's wrong to view the Supreme Court's ruling in the aptly titled *Trump v. United States*, its Constitution-torching invitation to authoritarian rule, as a decision without precedent. It's just that Supreme Court precedents don't necessarily roll quite like they used to.

The ruling, which establishes that a president can't be prosecuted for crimes committed under the expansive cloak of official conduct, has received a load of criticism, including the analysis of conservative legal scholar William Baude that the court, in bestowing immunity on Donald Trump, engaged in "outcome-oriented policymaking." That's a very polite way to describe Chief Justice John Roberts' all-too-evident struggle to dress the court's naked political machinations in some approximation of American constitutional law, politics, tradition, history, culture, something. A less charitable view is that the court is "Donald Trump with a law degree"—reckless, dishonest and a prelude to sweeping corruption and probable violence.

Yet Roberts' wordy, defensive 6-3 opinion wasn't just a victory for the most corrupt American president in history. After all, it extends beyond Trump to all presidents.

Except it really doesn't—and not just because the Supreme Court left itself in charge of all the loose ends, enabling five or six Republican justices to withhold the same immunity from a Democrat that they shower on Trump.

The judges have an easy way out of that trap. What the judges are counting on is not their ability to impose different rules on different presidents, enabling Trump to jail his political opponents on bogus grounds, for example, while forcing Joe Biden to hew to the old constitutional ways. They needn't make such a bitter joke of themselves. Instead, they will simply let the two opposing political coalitions impose wildly different constraints on their leaders.

In short, there is no way the Democratic Party will allow a Democratic president to set up an emoluments hotel around the corner from the White House, or overcharge the Secret Service for stays at his property, or sic armed troops on Americans asserting their rights to free speech and assembly, or commit any of the array of new criminal acts that the Supreme Court has just tacitly endorsed. (That array includes directing the Department of Justice to arrest opponents on bogus charges.)

The Democratic Party, which views itself as the last speed bump before Republicans initiate an authoritarian death spiral in the US, will not tolerate a chief executive who emulates the political figure that Democrats most despise—Trump.

The Republican Party, meanwhile, has already capitulated to Trumpism. The party elite will readily enable more Trump crimes. North Carolina Lieutenant Governor and GOP gubernatorial candidate Mark Robinson last week announced, "Some folks need killing," calling political murder a matter of "necessity." Republican Senator J.D. Vance of Ohio has said he's fine with Trump using the Department of Justice to attack his opponents.

The party base, nurtured on Fox News lies and Trump's constant calls for vengeance, won't merely tolerate crimes, they will cheer them, determined that this time, the former president will truly succeed in "hurting the people he needs to be." Trump's Project 2025 promises to usher in a disciplined authoritarian rule instead of the chaotic assaults of Trump's first term.

Thus a Supreme Court ruling that ostensibly treats each party's president the same will produce wildly disparate effects. That, of course, is the point.

But it's not a new point.

Consider the Court's 2022 ruling in another howler, New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen. Written by Justice Clarence Thomas, the Bruen ruling is an embarrassing mess that — two years after it hit with a hard thud — the court has already been forced to clean up. Thomas's opinion quickly led to a lower-court ruling that domestic abusers can possess guns, a wholly logical conclusion that proved politically untenable for the other MAGA justices. Yet the essence of Bruen remains intact.

Like Trump v. United States, Bruen is eminently even-handed. You see, under Bruen, liberals from the Upper West Side of Manhattan are permitted to walk around Amarillo, Texas, armed to the teeth. Likewise, gun fanatics from Texas are welcome to do the same on the Upper West Side.

Bruen is predicated on the reality that only Team MAGA is likely to use the ruling's newly invented right to carry a gun in places where carrying a firearm is vehemently opposed by the local populace. Guns, of course, are occasionally used to protect, and far more often to intimidate or harm. Rulings that spread guns everywhere, over the democratic objections of citizens, conform very well to the aims of people like Robinson and Trump and other vectors of violence.

The moral collapse of the Republican Party proceeded by degrees. Newt Gingrich led the party down in the 1990s. That decline was followed by birtherism and other hysterias, along with the transformation of the House of Representatives into a content farm for Fox News. The GOP Senate fell when it refused to convict Trump for his attempted overthrow of the republic, citing criminal courts as the proper venue to punish the former president's conduct.

The Supreme Court, insulated by lifetime tenure from MAGA pressure, was arguably the last Republican outpost to capitulate fully to the new authoritarianism, and to endorse its attendant corruption and promise of violence.

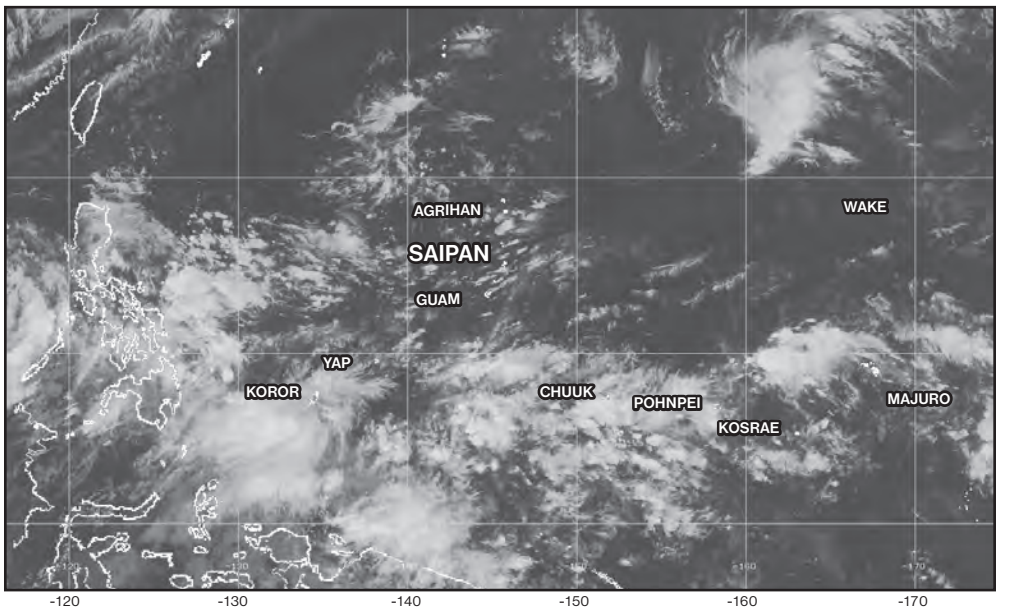
We will miss the old days.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
87° 80°	87° 80°	84° 78°	85° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:42 AM SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows isolated to scattered showers across the Marianas. Isolated thunderstorms are seen just to the west, north, and east of the coastal waters of the Marianas. Combined seas are generally between 4 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	58° / 51°
Beijing	Rain/Thunder	77° / 73°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	89° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 80°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 49°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	91° / 81°
New York	Sunny	90° / 73°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90° / 78°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	80° / 60°
Busan	Scattered Thunderstorms	79° / 74°
Rome	Sunny	96° / 74°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	90° / 69°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Seoul	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 75°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	96° / 79°
Washington, DC	Sunny	91° / 71°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:18 AM	1:13 PM
Tuesday	-	12:55 AM	2:04 PM
Wednesday	-	1:37 AM	2:59 PM
Thursday	-	2:24 AM	3:57 PM
Friday	-	3:17 AM	4:57 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:37 AM	High Tide	1.92
8:59 AM	Low Tide	0.62
3:38 PM	High Tide	1.50
8:13 PM	Low Tide	1.24

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Cantor announces $3M in technical assistance grants for RMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor announced $3,098,251 in Technical Assistance Program funding provided through the Office of Insular Affairs for the Marshall Islands during a visit with Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador Charles Paul at the RMI Embassy in Washington, D.C.

"Technical Assistance Program grants play a crucial role in supporting projects in the Marshall Islands that have lasting impacts for communities," said Cantor. "This year's TAP awards will build on improvements to existing transportation, waterway and disaster resilience; strengthen renewable energy projects in the capital; and improve customs IT systems for the island nation."

Four TAP grants, totaling $1,051,050 were announced for the following projects:

■ $502,300 to the Arno Atoll Local Government for the Arno Atoll Boat Channel Project;

■ $229,750 to the Majuro Atoll Local Government for the Majuro Renewable Energy Project;

■ $164,500 to the Jaluit Atoll Local Government for the Disaster Preparedness and Climate Resilience for Disconnected Communities on Jaluit Atoll Project; and

■ $154,500 to the Republic of Marshall Islands Customs Department for the IT Infrastructure Project.

As called for under Public Law 112-149, the OIA is also providing $2,047,201 through an Inter-Agency Agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy for the Runit Dome Groundwater Monitoring Program, to continue groundwater monitoring at the containment structure located at Runit Island at Enewetak Atoll.

The OIA previously awarded an additional amount of $2,240,225 to the RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services for the Section 177 Health Care 4 Atolls Program on Feb. 27, 2024. That assistance was provided earlier in the year to ensure continuation of primary and special health care services to the residents of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utrik.

In total, the OIA TAP program provided a sum of $5,338,476 in funding assistance for the Republic of the Marshall Islands in fiscal year 2024. This serves as a testament to the continued support that the United States provides the Republic of the Marshall Islands beyond the Compact of Free Association.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. ***(PR)***

OIA

Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor and Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador Charles Paul pose with the $3,098,251 in Technical Assistance Program funding check for the RMI at the RMI Embassy in Washington, D.C.

OIA

Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor shakes hands with Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador Charles Paul.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2024-012

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: August 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS) WILLIAM S. REYES (WSR) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Project Package will be available on July 15, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC Website at www.nmhcgov.net or the CDBG-DR Website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com "Procurement Tab".

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **July 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Amendment No. 3

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2024-006

(This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)

MARIANAS HIGH-SCHOOL CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting sealed bids for the Marianas High-School Career Technical Education Center Construction Project.

The proposed project activity will be an approximately 42,000 square-foot, reinforced concrete two story building. The new facility will include technical education classrooms include automotive workshop, culinary arts training kitchen, performing arts theatre, mock-up hotel room, various classrooms, flexible spaces, electrical room, telecom room, storage space, office space, designated loading area, restrooms, fire pump room, water tank, exterior walkways, and an exterior enclosure for mechanical equipment.

The site improvements include perimeter sidewalks, training kitchen garden, grading as the building is raised 2' above existing grade, driveway to allow vehicles access to the theatre back of house, and driveway to the automotive workshop.

Site water will be connected through a new connection along Beach Road. The facility's sanitary sewer system will connect to the existing sewer gravity lines within the campus Power will be routed from Beach Road and to a new pad mounted transformer just west of the building.

The project is funded through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the CNMI Office of the Governor, Public Assistance Office (PAO). EDA and HUD funding will be utilized for the superstructure and site improvements.

The Project Package will be available beginning **April 30, 2024,** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **May 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2024-006.** For Bidders within the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies of sealed bids and one (1) USB flash drive must be submitted to the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 p.m. ~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Bid.** Notice of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, **~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 234-9021, or via email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original, three (3) copies and one (1) USB Flash Drive of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024,** and must be received at NMHC no later than **~~July 30, 2024~~ August 06, 2024.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan at **2:30 p.m.** local **~~July 10, 2024~~ July 26, 2024.** However, if notice of intent to bid is received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **2:00 p.m.** local time on **~~July 31, 2024~~ August 07, 2024.**

Bid Security: Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid which maybe a Bid Bond (form enclosed) in cash, by certified check, cashiers' check or other form acceptable to NMHC.

Bidding Procedures shall be in compliance with the NMHC Procurement Regulations (NMIAC § 100-60)

Breach of Ethical Standard

NMIAC § 100-60-725 (a) Gratuities and Kickbacks

Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor.

Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order.

NMIAC 100-60-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees

Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure NMHC contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

]NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

Business

Achas promoted to GM of McDonald's Middle Road

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan has promoted Gisel Achas to general manager of its Middle Road location effective July 16, 2024.

In a statement, the fast-food restaurant's local franchisee said Achas has over a decade of managerial experience across various departments and is well-prepared to assume this leadership role.

Achas

"She eagerly anticipates leveraging her skills to oversee the restaurant operations, ensuring continued success and fostering growth for her team and the organization. Gisel looks forward to embarking on this new chapter in her professional journey and is excited about the opportunity to make a significant impact in her expanded role," said McDonald's of Guam & Saipan.

When asked about her experience, Achas emphasizes the invaluable training opportunities provided by McDonald's, particularly in customer service.

According to her, these experiences have not only honed her professional skills but also fostered meaningful connections with customers and coworkers from diverse backgrounds. As part of her development, on August 2023 Achas attended Hamburger University in Chicago, Illinois, where she gained valuable insights into leadership behavior, teamwork, and empowerment.

Achas has been an invaluable member of McDonald's family since June 26, 2001. With dedication and a passion for excellence, Achas has steadily progressed through various roles within the company, from crewperson to area manager on July 1, 2007 to department manager on Nov. 23, 2015.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned and operated by Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, and their son, Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years in Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the islands' largest employers. ***(PR)***

PIC Saipan makes $2K donation to Saipan Humane Society

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's donation to the Saipan Humane Society will help provide essential resources and services to animals in need, including food, shelter, medical care, and love.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is thrilled to announce that it has made a $2,000 donation to the Saipan Humane Society to support their animal care efforts. The donation comes from part of the proceeds of its recent Hafa Adai 5K color run.

This donation will help provide essential resources and services to animals in need, including food, shelter, medical care, and love. By supporting the Saipan Humane Society, PIC Saipan is helping to make a positive impact on the lives of animals in the community and promoting a culture of compassion and kindness.

"We often find and agree that a pet can do more than keep us company. Some individuals see their pets as lifelong companions and integral members of the family. Pets may improve health and reduce stress of us and even help children develop the emotional and social skills. The reason why we chose Saipan Humane Society as a beneficiary of fund that we generated through the 2024 Hafa Adai 5K, is to support all pet-lovers in the community by finding a way to protect all animals. I believe that our donation may not be big, but I hope it can be used to enhance the quality of life of animals by assisting with animal supplies, medical equipment, and supporting animal welfare-related projects that are initiated by the Saipan Humane Society," said PIC Saipan general manager Dennis Seo.

PIC Saipan's donation to the Saipan Humane Society is a testament to its commitment to giving back to the community and supporting important causes.

"We believe that animals bring joy and love into our lives, and it is our responsibility to care for them and ensure their well-being. We are proud to support the Saipan Humane Society's mission. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of animals and create a more compassionate world," said Seo. ***(PR)***

Nation

Trump rally shooting probed as an assassination attempt

BUTLER, Pa. (AP)— Former President Donald Trump was the target of an apparent assassination attempt Saturday at a Pennsylvania rally, days before he was to accept the Republican nomination for a third time. A barrage of gunfire set off panic, and a bloodied Trump, who said he was shot in the ear, was surrounded by Secret Service and hurried to his SUV as he pumped his fist in a show of defiance.

Trump's campaign said the presumptive GOP nominee was doing "fine" after the shooting, which he said pierced the upper part of his right ear.

"I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place," he wrote on his social media site.

Law enforcement officials told The Associated Press the assailant who opened fire at the rally was a 20-year-old man from Pennsylvania. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details that hadn't yet been publicly released.

At least one attendee was dead and two spectators were critically injured, authorities said. The Secret Service said it killed the suspected shooter—who it said attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue, a farm show in Butler, Pennsylvania—and that Trump was safe.

The FBI said during a press conference late Saturday that they were not prepared to release the identity of the shooter and had not yet identified a motive for the assassination attempt.

The attack was the most serious attempt to assassinate a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. It drew new attention to concerns about political violence in a deeply polarized U.S. less than four months before the presidential election. And it could alter the tenor and security posture at the Republican National Convention, which will begin on Monday in Milwaukee.

Trump's campaign said the convention would proceed as planned.

President Joe Biden, who is running against Trump, was briefed on the incident and spoke to Trump several hours after the shooting, the White House said.

"There's no place in America for this type of violence," the president said in public remarks. "It's sick. It's sick."

Biden planned to return to Washington early, cutting short a weekend at his beach home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Many Republicans quickly blamed the violence on Biden and his allies, arguing that sustained attacks on Trump as a threat to democracy have created a toxic environment. They pointed in particular to a comment Biden made to donors on July 8, saying "it's time to put Trump in the bullseye."

In the coming days, much of the focus will shift to the shooter and security lapses. The shooter was not an attendee at the rally and was killed by U.S. Secret Service agents, according to two officials who spoke to the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

The officials said the shooter was engaged by members of the U.S. Secret Service counterassault team. The heavily armed tactical team travels everywhere with the president and major party nominees and is meant to confront any active threats while other agents focus on safeguarding and evacuating the person at the center of protection.

Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene, according to a third person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

An AP analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos from the scene of the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking. A video posted to social media and geolocated by the AP shows the body of a person wearing gray camouflage lying motionless on the roof of a building at AGR International Inc., a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds where Trump's rally was held.

The roof where the person lay was less than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 150 meters is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a scaled human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M-16 rifle. The AR-15, like the shooter at the Trump rally had, is the semi-automatic civilian version of the military M-16.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, whose department oversees the Secret Service, said officials were engaged with the Biden and Trump campaigns and "taking every possible measure to ensure their safety and security."

Trump was showing off a chart of border crossing numbers when the apparent shots began just after 6:10 p.m. It took two minutes from the moment of the first shot for Trump to be placed in a waiting SUV.

As Trump was talking, a popping sound was heard, and the former president put his right hand up to his right ear, as people in the stands behind him appeared to be shocked.

As the first pop rang out, Trump said, "Oh," and grabbed his ear as two more pops could be heard and he crouched down. More shots were heard then.

Someone could be heard saying near the microphone at Trump's lectern, "Get down, get down, get down, get down!" as agents tackled the former president. They piled atop him to shield him with their bodies, as is their training protocol, as other agents took up positions on stage to search for the threat.

Screams were heard in the crowd of several thousand people. A woman screamed louder than the rest. Afterward, voices were heard saying "shooter's down" several times, before someone asked "are we good to move?" and "are we clear?" Then, someone ordered, "Let's move."

Trump could be heard on the video saying at least twice, "Let me get my shoes, let me get my shoes," with another voice heard saying, "I've got you sir."

Life & Style

Fitness guru Richard Simmons dies at 76

NEW YORK (AP)—Richard Simmons, television's hyperactive court jester of physical fitness who built a mini-empire in his trademark tank tops and short shorts by urging the overweight to exercise and eat better, died Saturday. He turned 76 on Friday.

Los Angeles police and fire departments say they responded to a Los Angeles house where a man was declared dead from natural causes. Neither provided a name, but The Associated Press matched the address and age to Simmons through public records.

TMZ was first to report his death, which has also been reported by other outlets citing unnamed Simmons representatives.

AP

Richard Simmons arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards at Barclays Center on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Simmons, who had revealed a skin diagnosis in March 2024, had lately dropped out of sight, sparking speculating about his health and well-being.

Simmons was a former 268-pound teen who shared his hard-won weight-loss tips as host of the Emmy-winning daytime "Richard Simmons Show," author of best-selling books and the diet plan Deal-A-Meal, as well as opening exercise studios and starring in millions of exercise videos, including the successful "Sweatin' to the Oldies" line.

"My food plan and diet are just two words—common sense. With a dash of good humor," he told The Associated Press in 1982. "I want to help people and make the world a healthier, happy place."

Simmons embraced mass communication to get his message out, even as he eventually became the butt of jokes for his outfits and flamboyant flair. He was a guest on TV shows led by Merv Griffin, Mike Douglas and Phil Donahue. But David Letterman would prank him and Howard Stern would tease him until he cried. He was mocked in Neil Simon's "The Goodbye Girl" on Broadway in 1993, and Eddie Murphy put on white makeup and dressed like him in "The Nutty Professor," screaming "I'm a pony!"

Asked if he thought he could motivate people by being silly, Simmons answered, "I think there's a time to be serious and a time to be silly. It's knowing when to do it. I try to have a nice combination. Being silly cures depression. It catches people off guard and makes them think. But in between that silliness is a lot of seriousness that makes sense. It's a different kind of training."

Simmons' daytime show was seen on 200 stations in America, as well as in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan and South America. His first book, "Never Say Diet," was a smash best seller.

He was known to counsel the severely obese, including Rosalie Bradford, who held records for being the world's heaviest woman, and Michael Hebranko, who credited Simmons for helping him lose 700 pounds. Simmons put real people—chubby, balding or non-telegenic—in his exercise videos to make the fitness goals seem reachable.

Baldwin weeps in court as judge announces involuntary manslaughter case is dismissed

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico judge on Friday brought a sudden and stunning end to the involuntary manslaughter case against Alec Baldwin, dismissing it in the middle of the actor's trial and saying it cannot be filed again.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case based on misconduct of police and prosecutors over the withholding of evidence from the defense in the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film "Rust."

Baldwin cried, hugged his two attorneys, gestured to the front of the court, then turned to hug his crying wife, Hilaria, the mother of seven of his eight children, holding the embrace for 12 seconds. He climbed into an SUV outside the Santa Fe County courthouse without speaking to the media.

"The late discovery of this evidence during trial has impeded the effective use of evidence in such a way that it has impacted the fundamental fairness of the proceedings," Marlowe Sommer said. "If this conduct does not rise to the level of bad faith it certainly comes so near to bad faith to show signs of scorching."

The case-ending evidence, revealed during testimony Thursday, was ammunition that was brought into the sheriff's office in March by a man who said it could be related to Hutchins' killing. Prosecutors said they deemed the ammo unrelated and unimportant, while Baldwin's lawyers alleged they "buried" it and filed a motion to dismiss the case.

The judge's decision ends the criminal culpability of the 66-year-old Baldwin after a nearly three-year saga that began when a revolver he was pointing at Hutchins during a rehearsal went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza.

"Our goal from the beginning was to seek justice for Halyna Hutchins," District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies said in a statement. "We are disappointed that the case did not get to the jury."

AP

Actor Alec Baldwin reacts after the judge threw out the involuntary manslaughter case for the 2021 fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during filming of the Western movie "Rust," Friday, July 12, 2024, at Santa Fe County District Court in Santa Fe, N.M.

The career of the "Hunt for Red October" and "30 Rock" star and frequent "Saturday Night Live" host — who has been a household name for more than three decades—had been put into doubt, and he could have gotten 18 months in prison if convicted. It's not clear what opportunities will await him now, but he and his wife signed an agreement for a reality show on their large family in June.

Baldwin and other producers still face civil lawsuits from Hutchins' parents and sister, and from crew members. Hutchins' widower and young son had agreed to settle their own lawsuit about a year after the shooting, with the widower becoming an executive producer on the then-unfinished film.

But that settlement was reportedly in jeopardy before the trial, and the lawyer who filed it, Brian Panish, now said in a statement that "we look forward to presenting all the evidence to a jury and holding Mr. Baldwin accountable for his actions in the senseless death of Halyna Hutchins."

Readers respond about 'hosted out' wife's dilemma

DEAR ABBY: I was shocked at your response to "Hosted Out" (March 28), who was frustrated at having to host, feed and entertain her husband's hunting buddy and his wife several times a year. I agreed with your suggestion that she stay elsewhere while these friends stay at her home so her husband will (hopefully) see the light when he's the one doing the cooking and hosting. But you then made the comment that you can't believe the friend's wife doesn't help with the cooking and entertaining, and how lazy and insensitive she must be. Abby, did you get caught in a time warp? Why would you think that the hunting buddy gets a free pass from cooking and helping during their stay when HE is the one receiving all the benefits? And how could you possibly criticize his wife, the innocent bystander? Are you honestly stating that it is HER JOB to cook and clean for those guys because she's a woman? I'm hoping you have now returned to the 2020s.

JULIE IN COLORADO

DEAR JULIE: I received a lot of criticism for the comment I made at the end of my answer to "Hosted Out"—enough cold water to moisten the wet noodle I use for self-flagellation. Read on:

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was flabbergasted that you think the wife of the visiting couple deserved more blame than either of the two men. All three are guilty for allowing this to go on. "Hosted Out" wrote that she doesn't want to ruin the friendship. Wouldn't fleeing to a hotel do that kind of damage?

When my husband and I host visitors for more than three days, I explain to them early on that this "entitles them to be family." I tell them where the food and supplies are, that everyone is "on their own" for breakfast and lunch, but that we will all work together to prepare a sit-down dinner each night. My guests always seem to be relieved when I share this plan.

SHERI IN WASHINGTON

DEAR SHERI: I wish I'd made that suggestion ...

■■■

DEAR ABBY: You recommended that "Hosted Out" leave her home when those guests visit. Why should she have to leave to accommodate these clueless people? An honest, caring approach to the friends, stating that she has decided to cut back on the number of visitors and time hosting, should suffice.

BEVERLY IN MICHIGAN

DEAR BEVERLY: I think if she did that, she would get quite a bit of pushback from her hunting-loving hubby!

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Why does all the work fall to the wives? Perhaps next time, "Hosted Out" should plan only meals her husband has to barbecue.

KAREN IN CALIFORNIA

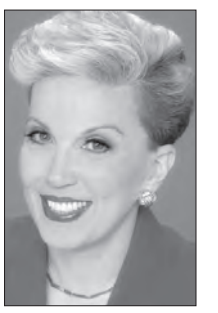
DEAR KAREN: Years ago, the business of entertaining mostly did fall on the shoulders of the womenfolk. Today, with so many women in the workplace, these responsibilities are usually shared. I want to thank my readers for reminding me of that.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

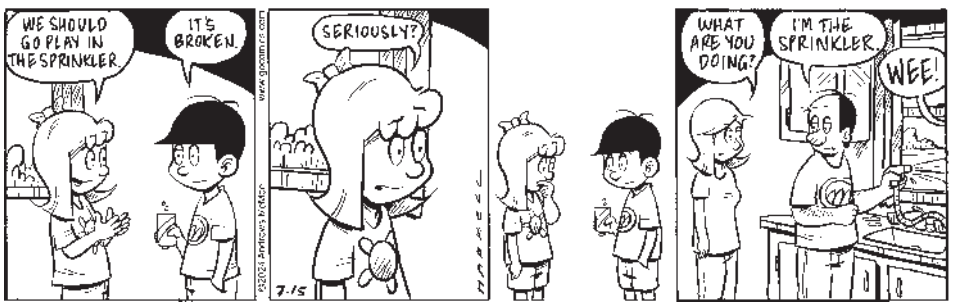
WHAT'S THIS UGLY BRUTE CALLED?
AN ALLO-SAUR!
I'M RIGHT HERE. YOU DON'T NEED TO SHOUT.
RUN!
WHEN WE GET TO THE TIME MACHINE, THROW HIM THE SNACKS WE PACKED; MAYBE THAT WILL DIVERT HIM WHILE WE TAKE OFF!
YOU CAN THROW YOUR SNACKS. I MIGHT STILL WANT MINE.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A SNACK YOURSELF! GET IN! GET IN!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

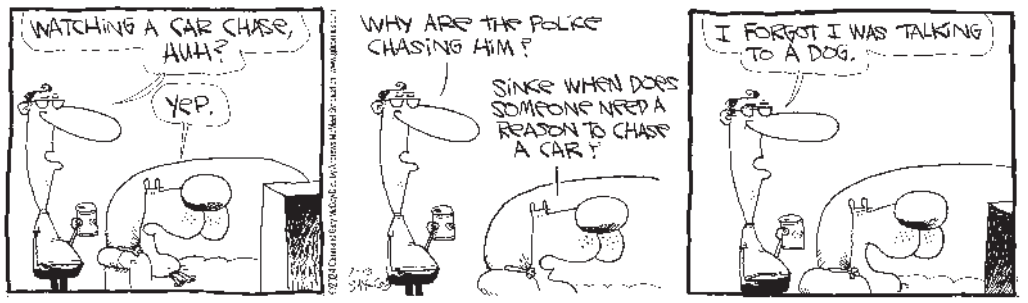
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WATCHING A CAR CHASE, AUH?
YEP.
WHY ARE THE POLICE CHASING HIM?
SINCE WHEN DOES SOMEONE NEED A REASON TO CHASE A CAR?
I FORGOT I WAS TALKING TO A DOG.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

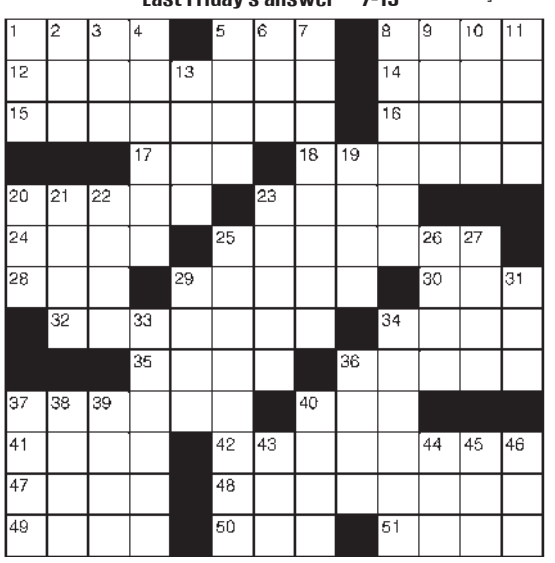
ACROSS
1 Prayer ender
5 Apply cream
8 God of war
12 Geometric curve
14 River deposit
15 Sweet cocktail ingredient
16 Inventor Sikorsky
17 LPs' successors
18 Slowly, in music
20 Rum cakes
23 Hitch
24 "Believe" singer
25 Gives
28 Purring pet
29 Decaf brand
30 "Mangia!"
32 Rum maker
34 "In the Woods" author French
35 "Sad to say ..."
36 Taxi costs
37 Capital of Croatia
40 Carefree
41 Bard's river
42 British multinational bank
47 Tower city
48 Of the body
49 Satirist Mort
50 Tofu source
51 Hindu royal

DOWN
1 LAPD alert
2 Goat's plaint
3 Blunder
4 Daytona 500 acronym
5 Feet, slangily
6 Mode lead-in
7 Christine of "The Good Fight"
8 Italian cheese
9 Diana of "The Avengers"
10 "The Time Machine" people
11 Houston baseballer, briefly
13 Chums
19 Information
20 Abbr. in an email
21 Pequod captain
22 Alpha follower
23 Transmits
25 Whom Pilate pardoned
26 Sport
27 Logical
29 Auction
31 Prof's aides
33 Of the flesh
34 12th U.S. president
36 It's true
37 Microwaves
38 Athletic shoe brand
39 "Gee whiz!"
40 Battleship color
43 Year in Spain
44 Docs' org.
45 Feminine side
46 High school subj.

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	A	S		B	I	U	S		S	E	A	I
A	N	C		U	N	I	S		H	I	L	O
P	Y	R	A	M	I	D	S		A	R	A	L
			E	X	P	O		A	M	E	N	D
H	O	S	E	S		F	A	V	A			
U	M	P	S		H	O	M	I	N	I	D	S
L	E	C		S	E	L	L	S		L	E	A
A	N	T	A	C	I	D	S		C	L	A	W
			B	A	R	S		N	O	U	N	S
G	I	F	A	M			H	E	R	S		
R	O	T	C		S	T	E	P	K	I	D	S
E	C	R	U		A	U	R	A		O	A	R
C	O	E	S		M	E	A	L		N	B	A

Last Friday's answer 7-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tristan Wilds, 35; Lana Parrilla, 47; Jason Bonham, 58; Forest Whitaker, 63.

Happy Birthday: Listen, learn, pay attention and do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Work to lower stress by eliminating people and pastimes that increase your stress level instead of helping you enjoy life. Stop talking; start incorporating what and who you want in your life, and transform your routine to maintain a positive attitude. Embrace the life that brings you joy. Your numbers are 4, 9, 23, 26, 31, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a moment to establish what you want and how to make things happen. Keep your intentions to yourself until you have details in place. Do whatever it takes to avoid emotional interference from anyone manipulating you. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't take anything for granted. Do your own thing and allow others the same privilege. Anger wastes time, and confronting issues will drag you down. Don't implement a premature change; give yourself a chance to test different scenarios first. Be punctual and avoid paying a penalty. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Learn through trial and error. Practice will reduce mishaps. Refuse to let excess cause you grief. Uncertainty is a warning to take a moment to consider your actions. Physical fitness will ease stress and help you see issues. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Set boundaries and maintain a healthy routine. Monitor what and who causes you stress, and sign up for self-help groups to help you redirect your energy to something that encourages a positive return. Avoid hasty decisions that affect your finances or take up valuable time. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Research, find opportunities and don't feel pressured to move until you are comfortable. You'll gain the most insight and pleasure from your steps to discover what's possible. Listen carefully, let your imagination kick in and pursue only what feels comfortable and within reach. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Resolve unfinished projects. Actively seek the help of those you can trust to support your efforts, not criticize your decisions. Avoid discussing emotional issues until you feel confident you can do so without getting angry or ruining a meaningful relationship. Choose peace over turmoil. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Muscle through projects. Using your physical attributes to get things done will be satisfying and encourage you to be adventuresome. An opportunity to learn or distance yourself from situations dragging you down will clear your head and promote new beginnings. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put your differences aside when dealing with friends, colleagues and family. Focus on what you want to accomplish, and you will put a dent in your to-do list. Don't deny yourself the right to venture down a path that gives you a different perspective regarding what's possible. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Refuse to let situations fester. Speak your mind, embrace what and who brings you joy, and find your opportunities. A chance to make money using a gift you possess will open a passage to exciting prospects. Self-improvement projects will pay off and encourage a positive lifestyle change. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Rethink your financial situation and how you use your attributes to pay your bills. Consider what's trending or marketable, and let your entrepreneurial instincts kick in and lead the way. A networking function will change how you proceed. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refuse to let the changes others make deter you from following your heart and heading in a direction that excites you. Opportunity knocks, and it's up to you to take control and make things happen. Don't wait for someone to make the first move; forge ahead. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Clear the way for new beginnings. Be innovative; structure your life to ensure you leave more time and space for what's important. Social events, personal growth and overdue discussions will help you sort out the changes necessary to reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring, helpful and creative. You are emotional and giving.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	4		8	5		3		
	6			3		1		
1		3	6		7	9	5	2
		4	9			7		
2		9		6	3		4	
	1	6	5		4			3
			7					5
7	3	5						1
6	2	1			5			

Difficulty: ★ 7/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

1	3	8	7	6	2	5	9	4
2	6	7	9	4	5	8	1	3
9	5	4	8	1	3	6	7	2
7	9	3	5	8	4	2	6	1
4	2	1	3	7	6	9	5	8
6	8	5	1	2	9	3	4	7
5	1	9	4	3	8	7	2	6
8	7	2	6	5	1	4	3	9
3	4	6	2	9	7	1	8	5

Difficulty: ★★★★ 7/12

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CASE-SENSITIVE **Solution: 8 letters**

N	C	E	N	I	L	N	O	W	K	P	R	I	N	T
O	O	B	R	O	W	S	E	R	V	E	R	O	Y	A
I	D	I	G	E	E	S	O	I	K	E	U	P	T	G
T	I	I	T	A	T	W	S	T	Y	N	E	I	N	S
C	N	N	R	A	T	T	D	E	S	K	T	O	P	S
N	G	C	T	E	C	C	E	F	N	L	S	I	D	E
U	H	E	N	E	D	I	O	L	E	I	B	N	N	R
F	R	E	T	A	R	R	N	M	O	C	S	P	A	D
M	E	L	I	A	M	N	O	U	P	R	I	U	R	D
U	S	E	R	N	A	M	E	W	M	L	T	T	B	A
O	A	A	W	S	T	X	E	T	S	M	E	N	Y	L
I	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	S	S	O	X	O	O
C	T	S	R	I	F	L	A	T	I	P	A	C	R	C
O	F	F	I	C	E	G	N	I	L	L	E	P	S	K
N	D	S	E	C	N	E	T	N	E	S	A	R	H	P

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Address, Brand, Browser, Business, Capital, Case, City, Coding, Communication, Complex, Computers, Control, Desktop, First, Form, Function, Icon, Input, Internet, Letter, Lock, Login, Mail, Network, Noun, Office, Online, Password, Phrase, Print, Rate, Search, Sentences, Server, Song, Spelling, Tags, Term, Texts, Title, Town, Type, Username, Write

Last Friday's answer : Vacation

The NEW **Volume 77** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Krejcikova beats Paolini for her second Grand Slam trophy

LONDON (AP)—At age 18, a decade before Barbora Krejcikova won Wimbledon on Saturday, she was done with junior tennis and couldn't decide whether to pursue a professional tennis career or move on, go to school and find a different path.

So Krejcikova wrote a letter to one of her idols, 1998 Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna, and dropped it off at her home in their native Czech Republic. Not only did Novotna tell Krejcikova she had talent and should stick with the sport, but she also became a mentor until dying of cancer in 2017.

"Before she passed away," Krejcikova said, "she told me to go and win a Slam."

How about two? Krejcikova was an unseeded, surprising winner at the French Open three years ago and added to her trophy case with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini in the final at the All England Club. Shortly after Saturday's match ended, Krejcikova went and looked at her just-printed name on the list of Wimbledon champions posted in a Centre Court hallway—and saw Novotna's there, too.

"The only thing that was going through my head," Krejcikova said of that moment, "was that I miss Jana a lot. It was just very, very emotional. ... I think she would be proud."

Even after holding on to win on her third match point, Krejcikova insisted that nobody—not her friends, not her family, not even herself—would believe what she's accomplished. It was relatively unlikely, after all, given that she dealt with a back injury and illness this season and her record in 2024 was just 7-9 when she arrived at the grass-court major.

AP

Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic kisses her trophy after defeating Jasmine Paolini of Italy in the women's singles final at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Saturday, July 13, 2024.

Krejcikova was the 31st of 32 seeded women at the All England Club. Then came a three-setter in the first round last week, adding to the doubts.

But by the end of the fortnight, there stood the seventh-seeded Paolini, telling Krejcikova: "You play such beautiful tennis."

Krejcikova is the eighth woman to leave Wimbledon as the champion in the past eight editions of the event. Last year's champion also is from the Czech Republic: unseeded Marketa Vondrousova, who lost in the first round last week.

Paolini, the runner-up to Iga Swiatek at the French Open last month, is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2016 to get to the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in the same season—and the first since Venus Williams in 2002 to lose both.

"If I keep this level," said Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy, "I think I can have the chance to do great things."

This match was as back-and-forth as could be.

Fittingly, the last game took 14 points to decide, with Krejcikova needing to fend off a pair of break chances. She eventually converted her third match point when Paolini missed a backhand.

"I was just telling myself to be brave," said Krejcikova, who also owns seven Grand Slam titles in women's doubles, including two at Wimbledon, and three in mixed doubles.

She was great at the outset, taking 10 of the initial 11 points and five of the initial six games as the crowd, likely hoping to see a more competitive contest, pulled loudly for Paolini, yelling "Forza!" ("Let's go!"), the way she often does, or "Calma!" ("Be calm!").

"She was taking the ball earlier," Paolini said, "and she was moving me."

In the early going, Paolini looked very much like someone burdened by residual fatigue from the longest women's semifinal in Wimbledon history, her 2-hour, 51-minute win over Donna Vekic on Thursday.

But after a trip to the locker room before the second set, Paolini took charge, controlling more of the longer baseline exchanges, while Krejcikova's errors mounted.

From 3-all in the final set, Paolini faltered, double-faulting for the only time all afternoon to get broken. Krejcikova then held at love for 5-3 and soon was serving out the championship, no matter how tough things got down the stretch.

During the trophy ceremony, much as she did following her singles triumph in Paris in 2021, Krejcikova spoke about Novotna's influence on her tennis life—and her life, in general.

Later Saturday, at Krejcikova's news conference, she said Novotna frequently appears in her dreams. They'll converse with each other, she explained.

A reporter asked Krejcikova what she'd like to say to Novotna now that they both are Wimbledon champions.

"Well, I think I would turn it around," Krejcikova said with a smile. "I would like to hear what she would tell me."

Alcaraz, Djokovic will meet in the Wimbledon men's final again

LONDON (AP)—Carlos Alcaraz is only a couple of months past his 21th birthday, and yet this whole Grand Slam success thing is already a bit been-there, done-that for him.

Moving a step closer to a second consecutive Wimbledon trophy and fourth major championship overall, Alcaraz overcame a shaky start Friday to beat Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (1), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals at Centre Court.

"I feel like I'm not new anymore. I feel like I know how I'm going to feel before the final. I've been in this position before," Alcaraz said. "I will try to do the things that I did well last year and try to be better."

Like last year, his opponent in Sunday's title match will be Novak Djokovic, who advanced with a 6-4, 7-6 (2), 6-4 victory against No. 25 seed Lorenzo Musetti. Djokovic won 15 of 16 points when he went to the net in the first set and finished 43 for 56 in that category.

It'll be the first time the same two men meet in consecutive Wimbledon finals since Djokovic beat Roger Federer in 2014 and 2015.

"He's as complete a player as they come," Djokovic said about Alcaraz, who won the 2023 final in five sets. "It's going to take the best of my abilities on the court overall to beat him."

Djokovic, who hadn't reached a final at any tournament all season and needed surgery in June for a torn meniscus in his right knee, will be vying for his eighth championship at the All England Club. That would tie Federer's mark for the most by a man — and put him one behind Martina Navratilova's record of nine — while making the 37-year-old from Serbia the first player in tennis history with a career total of 25 Grand Slam titles.

"I know what I have to do," Alcaraz said. "I'm sure he knows what he has to do to beat me."

Late in Djokovic's semifinal, as he let his first three match points slip away, fans hoping for a longer match began chanting "Lo-ren-zo!" One yelled out during a point, bothering Djokovic, who soon was wiping away fake tears mockingly after Musetti failed to convert a break chance in the last game.

The No. 2-seeded Djokovic—who got a walkover in the quarterfinals when his opponent, Alex de Minaur, withdrew with a hip injury—eventually worked his way into his 10th final at Wimbledon and 37th at a major.

"I don't want to stop here," Djokovic said. "Hopefully I'll get my hands on that trophy."

Musetti said it didn't look as if Djokovic was hampered at all by his knee, which was covered by a gray sleeve.

"He showed that he's really in great shape, not only in tennis, but physically," said Musetti, who was appearing in a major semifinal for the first time.

After a so-so opening set against Medvedev, Alcaraz transformed back into the energetic, attacking, crowd-pleasing force who already was the first teenager to be No. 1 in the ATP rankings and is the youngest man to have won a major trophy on three surfaces: grass, clay and hard courts.

Now the Spaniard is one victory away from joining Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg as the only men in the Open era, which began in 1968, with multiple championships at the All England Club before turning 22.

Alcaraz also triumphed at the U.S. Open in 2022 and the French Open last month and is 3-0 in major finals.

"We're going to see a lot of him in the future, no doubt," Djokovic said. "He's going to win many more Grand Slams."

On a cloudy afternoon, the No. 3-seeded Alcaraz went through some ups and downs against No. 5 Medvedev, a 28-year-old from Russia.

" I started really, really nervous," Alcaraz said. "He was dominating the match."

Indeed, Medvedev grabbed an early 5-2 lead, but then got into trouble with his play and his temper.

Alcaraz broke to get within 5-4 with a drop shot that chair umpire Eva Asderaki ruled—correctly, according to TV replays—bounced twice before Medvedev got his racket on the ball. He voiced his displeasure, and Asderaki, after climbing down from her seat to huddle with tournament referee Denise Parnell during the ensuing changeover, issued a warning to Medvedev for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"I said something in Russian. Not unpleasant, but not over the line," Medvedev said at his news conference.

He regrouped quickly and was just about perfect in that set's tiebreaker.

Then it was Alcaraz's turn to get headed in the right direction, which didn't take long. He got the last break he would need for a 4-3 edge in the fourth when Medvedev sailed a backhand long, then sat in his sideline chair, locked eyes with his two coaches and started muttering and gesticulating.

"I was playing well," Medvedev said, "and just it was not enough."

Nearly every time Alcaraz emitted one of his "Uh-eh!" two-syllable grunts while unleashing a booming forehand, spectators audibly gasped, regardless of whether the point continued. Often enough, it didn't: Alcaraz had 24 forehand winners, 20 more than Medvedev.

In addition to the Wimbledon men's final, Sunday's sports schedule features the final of the men's soccer European Championship in Germany, where Spain will meet England.

When Alcaraz alluded to that in his on-court interview by saying, "It's going to be a really good day for the Spanish people, as well," he drew boos from the locals—perhaps his biggest misstep all day.

Alcaraz smiled and added: "I didn't say Spain is going to win. I just said that it's going to be a really fun, fun day."

Tigers complete stunning comeback over Dodgers, 11-9

DETROIT (AP)—Gio Urshela hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning after the Detroit Tigers overcame a 9-4 deficit in the ninth to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 11-9 on Saturday.

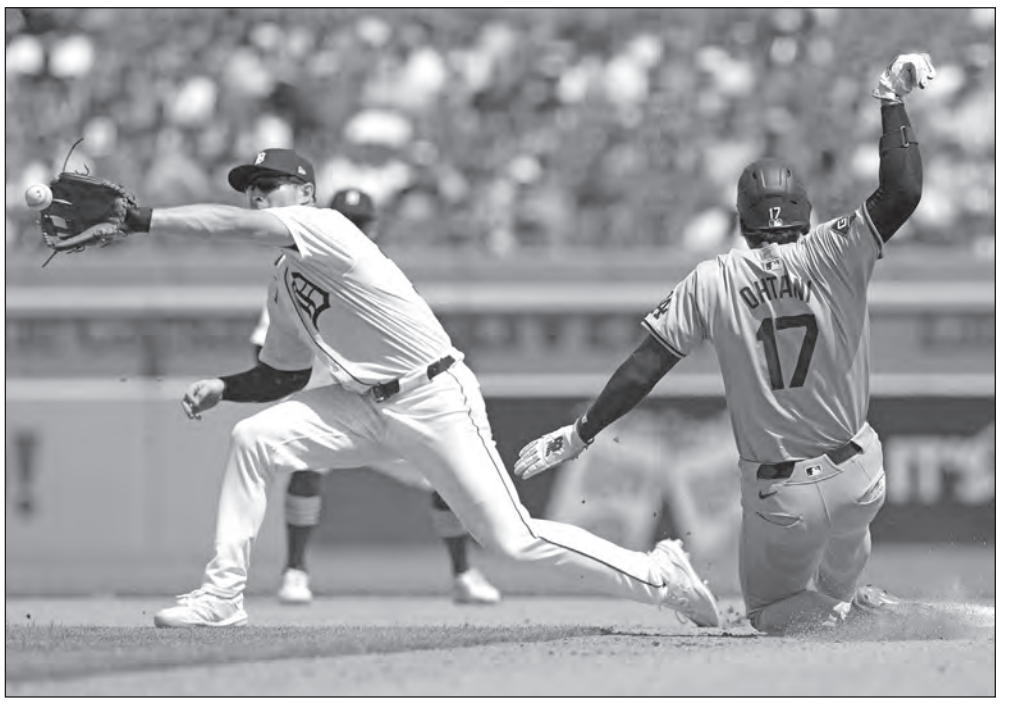
Wenceel Perez bunted Ryan Vilade to third to start the 10th. The Dodgers played a five-man infield, but Urshela ruined the strategy by homering to left off Yohan Ramirez (0-4).

Shohei Ohtani hit his 200th homer and tripled, giving him 233 total bases—the eighth-highest total before the All-Star break since the game was first played in 1933.

Ricky Vanasco started the ninth for the Dodgers, but didn't retire any of the three batters he faced. It was 9-6 when Dodgers manager Dave Roberts brought in closer Evan Phillips.

Phillips retired the first two batters, but Carson Kelly hit an RBI single to make it 9-7 and Colt Keith tied the game with a homer to left.

Will Vest (2-3) got Freddie Freeman to hit into a bases-loaded double play to end the top of the 10th.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani safely beats the throw to Detroit Tigers second baseman Colt Keith to steal second during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, July 13, 2024, in Detroit. (

CARDINALS 11, CUBS 3, 1st game
CARDINALS 5, CUBS 4, 2nd game

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Alec Burleson hit a three-run homer to cap a nine-run first inning, Lance Lynn pitched six solid innings and St. Louis routed Chicago in the opener of a split doubleheader.

Nolan Arenado hit a two-run single in the eighth inning, Masyn Winn and Willson Contreras homered and St. Louis beat Chicago to complete a doubleheader sweep.

St. Louis won the opener 11-3 as Alec Burleson hit a three-run homer to cap a nine-run first inning, and Lance Lynn (5-4) pitched six solid innings.

John King, Andrew Kittredge and JoJo Romero (4-1) combined to pitch four scoreless innings of relief in the second game before Ryan Helsley pitched a scoreless ninth for his major league-leading 32nd save in 34 chances.

Cardinals starter Kyle Gibson allowed four runs on 10 hits and threw 98 pitches in four innings in the nightcap.

RED SOX 5, ROYALS 0

BOSTON (AP)—Kutter Crawford took a one-hitter into the eighth inning, Rafael Devers hit a solo homer and Boston beat potential AL All-Star starter Seth Lugo in a victory over Kansas City.

Crawford (6-7) struck out four and walked one, throwing 76 of his 96 pitches for strikes. He gave up Maikel Garcia's leadoff single in the eighth before manager Alex Cora lifted him. The righty walked off to a standing ovation.

The Red Sox improved to 19-8 since June 12. Kansas City's four-game winning streak was snapped.

All-Star Devers homered into the first row of Green Monster seats against Lugo (11-4) to make it 5-0 in the fifth. It was his 22nd of the season and 194th of his career, which passed former catcher and current coach Jason Varitek for 11th on the club's all-time list.

PIRATES 6, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Bryan Reynolds drove in four runs, Luis Ortiz pitched neatly into the sixth inning and Pittsburgh beat Chicago.

Reynolds had four hits. He gave Pittsburgh a 3-1 lead in the seventh with a two-run single against reliever Tanner Banks and singled in two more during a three-run ninth, sending the Pirates to their third straight win and fifth in six games.

Ortiz gave up one run and four hits over 5.2 innings in his third start and 25th appearance. The right-hander struck out five and walked one in another strong outing after tossing six scoreless innings in Pittsburgh's loss to the New York Mets on Sunday.

Andrew McCutchen had two hits and scored a run before exiting with a sore left hamstring.

YANKEES 6, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Juan Soto and Aaron Judge hit back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning - both over 425 feet - and New York routed Baltimore to become the first AL East team since April 2023 to win a series against the Orioles.

Baltimore had been 16-0-6 in its last 22 series within the division, but New York (58-39) has taken the first two games of this one at Camden Yards. The Orioles (57-38) still hold the division lead by percentage points, but the winner of Sunday's series finale will have first place heading into the All-Star break.

New York had been winless in eight series, losing seven, since taking three of four at Kansas City from June 10-13 - the last time the Yankees had won consecutive games.

Austin Wells hit a three-run homer in the first inning, giving New York a 4-0 lead. Soto's 426-foot solo shot in the fifth made it 5-1, and Judge followed with a 431-foot drive to center field. It was his 34th homer of the season, the most before the All-Star break by a Yankees player.

GUARDIANS 4, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jhonkensy Noel hit a two-run pinch-hit homer in the eighth inning, and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat Tampa Bay to stop a three-game skid.

Noel connected on his fourth homer in 35 at-bats since being called up from Triple-A Columbus last month off Garrett Cleavinger (5-2) to put the Guardians ahead 4-2.

After Nick Sandlin (6-0) had a scoreless seventh, Emmauel Clase worked the ninth to get his 29th save in 32 chances.

Cleveland's Steven Kwan went 0 for 4, and had his major league batting average fall to .354 from .359.

Yandy Diaz drove in a run for the Rays, who fell under .500 at 47-48.

RANGERS 2, ASTROS 1, 10 INNINGS

HOUSTON (AP)—Marcus Semien hit a leadoff homer and Nathaniel Lowe's RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted Texas to a victory over Houston.

The Rangers ended a two-game skid and snapped Houston's 10-game home winning streak.

A groundout by Adolis Garcia moved automatic runner Josh Smith to third base with two outs in the 10th. Lowe then lined a single off Tayler Scott (6-3) to left field to send Smith home and put the Rangers on top.

The Rangers intentionally walked Yordan Alvarez with two outs in the bottom of the inning before Kirby Yates struck out Yainer Diaz to end it for his 15th save.

METS 7, ROCKIES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Jose Butto continued to thrive out of the bullpen Saturday, throwing 2.2 innings of solid relief and earning the win as New York beat Colorado to tie a season-high by moving four games over .500.

Francisco Lindor provided insurance with a three-run homer in the eighth as the Mets (49-45) climbed four games over .500 for the first time since they were 12-8 on April 20.

Butto (4-3) is 3-0 with one save in four relief appearances since being promoted from Triple-A Syracuse on July 2. He made just 15 relief appearances as a professional prior to his recall.

Butto got eight outs within the first seven batters he faced Saturday—the right-hander relieved Christian Scott in the fifth and induced Elias Diaaz to hit into an inning-ending double play—before opening the eighth by allowing a single to Ezequiel Tovar and walking Ryan McMahon.

NATIONALS 6, BREWERS 5

MILWAUKEE (AP)—CJ Abrams hit a go-ahead, two run home run in the ninth inning for Washington, who won consecutive games for the first time since July 4 with a victory over NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Left-hander Mitchell Parker couldn't get out of the first inning, throwing 46 pitches and recording just two outs while putting the Nationals in a 5-0 hole. But Washington's bullpen kept the Brewers' offense at bay over the final eight innings, allowing only three hits while striking out 10 batters.

The Nationals' offense did it's part, scoring three runs on five straight hits to open the fourth and send Milwaukee starter Dallas Keuchel to an early exit.

Luis Garcia made it a 5-4 game with a pinch-hit home run to lead off the sixth and then put the go-ahead and winning runs aboard with two out in the eighth.

PHILLIES 11, ATHLETICS 5

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Tyler Phillips pitched into the seventh inning in his first career start, Bryce Harper and Trea Turner hit two of Philadelphia's four home runs as they defeated Oakland.

Nick Castellanos had a home run and four RBIs and Johan Rojas also went deep for the NL East-leading Phillies, who have won four of five.

Brent Rooker homered, doubled and singled for Oakland.

Phillips (1-0) gave up four runs on six hits while striking out five and walking none. The 26-year-old right-hander was lifted after Rooker's homer and Shea Langeliers' double to start the seventh. Phillips grew up as a Phillies fan in nearby Lumberton, New Jersey, attending high school at Bishop Eustace Prep, about 7.5 miles (12 kilometers) from Citizens Bank Park.

REDS 10, MARLINS 6

CINCINNATI (AP)—Rookie Rece Hinds slugged two more long home runs, lifting Cincinnati to a win over Miami.

The 23-year-old Hinds has five homers and nine extra-base hits since making his major league debut on Monday. Only one of home runs was short of 400 feet - a 397-foot grand slam on Friday night.

Leading off the third on Saturday, Hinds blasted a 430-foot solo shot into the upper deck in left field. Then, with the Reds holding on to a 7-6 lead in the sixth, he slugged another one out to left, a two-run, 454-foot shot that came off the bat at 112 mph.

Elly De La Cruz and Jeimer Candelario hit back-to-back homers in the third, and Spencer Steer and Santiago Espinal also went deep for the Reds, who beat the NL's worst team for the second day in a row after taking three out of four from Colorado earlier in the week.

Jake Burger and Josh Bell hit back-to-back homers in the third for the Marlins off Andrew Abbott, who had one of his worst outings of the season. The Reds' lefty allowed five runs and seven hits in 3 1/3 innings. Seven relievers kept the Marlins at bay the rest of the way.

PADRES 4, BRAVES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Dylan Cease allowed one hit and struck out 11 in six dominant innings to lead San Diego to a victory over Atlanta Braves.

David Peralta had three hits and two RBIs, All-Star Luis Arraez had three hits and drove in a run, and Manny Machado hit his 13th homer among his three hits for the Padres.

The Padres snapped a five-game losing streak. They had only scored five runs in their previous four games.

Cease (8-8) threw 69 of his 106 pitches for strikes, mixing his blazing four-seam fastball with his slider to keep Braves hitters off-balance. He worked his way out of a jam in the fourth inning by striking out Eddie Rosario with runners at second and third base with two outs to put down the Braves' only prime scoring threat against him.

TWINS 4, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Carlos Santana homered to break a sixth-inning tie—a shot down the left-field line that survived a review to give him home runs in all 30 current major league ballparks—and Minnesota beat San Francisco.

The 38-year-old Santana hit the solo shot off Taylor Rodgers (1-3) for his 13th of the season and 314th overall. He also singled and walked twice.

The Twins added a run in the ninth on Ryan Jeffers' double-play grounder. They have won five of seven, while the Giants have lost five of season.

Cole Sands (4-1) got the victory, pitching a scoreless 1 2/3 innings after starter Simeon Woods Richardson allowed two runs in 4 2/3 innings. Jhoan Duran finished for his 15th save.

Brunson agrees to a 4-year, $156.5M extension with Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson quickly agreed to extend his stay with a New York Knicks team that has been on the rise since his arrival.

Brunson signed a four-year contract extension with the Knicks on Friday that a person with knowledge of the details said was worth about $156.5 million.

Brunson could have earned a much bigger deal by waiting a year, but chose the extension on the first day it was available to him in a move that provides a financial benefit to a Knicks team that the point guard has led to the second round of the playoffs in both seasons in New York.

"Jalen has embraced every challenge since he's come to New York and has been committed since day one to the vision and plan we set forth for the future of this team. Since Jalen joined us two years ago, he has consistently led by example and continues to show a willingness to sacrifice for this organization, his teammates and everyone in the Knicks family," Knicks President Leon Rose said in a statement.

The Knicks did not reveal terms of the deal, but they were confirmed to The Associated Press under condition of anonymity. They were first reported by ESPN, with Brunson's agent telling the organization his client chose the extension over a five-year, $269 million contract he could have received as a free agent in 2025.

Brunson comes off one of the best seasons in franchise history, averaging 28.7 points and finishing fifth in the voting for the NBA's MVP award.

That was far more than expected when the former second-round pick signed with the Knicks in 2022, with critics wondering if a player who had mostly been a backup in Dallas was worth more than $100 million.

Nobody can question Brunson's new deal.

The Knicks hadn't reached the second round of the playoffs since 2013 before Brunson helped them get there in his first season in New York. They nearly went even further last season, falling to the Indiana Pacers in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals after Brunson broke his hand in the second half.

AP

New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson looks to pass the ball during the second half of Game 5 in an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Indiana Pacers, May 14, 2024, in New York.

Derrick White replaces Kawhi Leonard on US Olympic men's basketball team

LAS VEGAS (AP)—USA Basketball intended to bring Kawhi Leonard to the Paris Olympics. After watching him play in a four-day training camp, they and the Los Angeles Clippers realized that the plan needed to change.

Derrick White of the NBA champion Boston Celtics is replacing Leonard on the U.S. team for the Paris, the first shakeup to a roster that was announced in the spring. The decision was made Tuesday, White accepted the invitation Tuesday night and USA Basketball announced the move Wednesday morning.

"He wanted to be here like all these guys want to be here," USA Basketball managing director Grant Hill said Wednesday night about Leonard. "And we don't take that lightly at all. It speaks to the program and the opportunity. Personally speaking, I know what it's like to want to do something and your body is just not right. And I've lived that personally. And so, I applaud him for coming here and being willing to sacrifice, give up his summer and represent our country and play for our program. It just ultimately didn't work out."

Leonard missed 12 of the Los Angeles Clippers' final 14 games this past season with right knee inflammation, though he said in recent days that he felt fine and the knee was doing well. But USA Basketball felt differently and, in conjunction with the Clippers, made the decision.

White, who accepted the invitation after talking with Hill on Tuesday night, averaged 15.2 points and 5.2 assists for the Celtics this past season. His selection gives Boston three of the 12 players on the U.S. roster; Celtics teammates Jayson Tatum and Jrue Holiday also are Paris-bound.

White is expected to be in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in the coming days—plans are still being made—to join the U.S. squad. The team will fly to Abu Dhabi from Las Vegas on Thursday and is scheduled to practice there Saturday ahead of exhibition games against Australia on July 15 and Serbia on July 17. It's unclear if White will be there in time for Saturday.

"I don't feel like his role changes much with our team from what he does with the Celtics," Hill said. "He plays alongside two incredibly great young players, Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum. And this setting is hard when you come in and you're the center of your universe and now you have to establish a role and it might be different than what you have to do with your team. To have someone who can come in and play off of guys, be complementary to some others, but then also stand out ... we're excited."

HOH

From page 16

pulled away by 2 points—which was the biggest lead so far, 8-6.

Hoh tried to control the game from then on which led to another 3-point lead, 10-7, but Muramoto bounced back to tie it up once more, 10-10. Muramoto was hungry for a third set while Hoh craved redemption, so Hoh sped through the next few points with well-placed returns and hard smashes to lead, 15-11.

After multiple points, Hoh had the biggest lead yet, 18-12. But with victory right around the corner, he stagnated at 19 points while Muramoto chipped away as he elicited errors and soon, it was 17-19, then 18-20. Hoh then regrouped and after a 10-second volley—and with one fast motion, secured the final point way out of Muramoto's reach to secure the title.

LEIGH GASES

Men's singles No. 5 seed Justin Hoh of Malaysia shouts in celebration after clinching the title in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Men's singles No. 5 seed Justin Hoh of Malaysia goes for a return during the second set of his finals against Ryoma Muramoto in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hoh made it to the finals after he took down unseeded Ping Hsien Huang of Chinese Taipei last Friday in a close semis battle, 21-18, 21-19. In the Round of 16 last Thursday, Hoh bested Jia Wei Koh of Singapore, 21-17, 21-19; and in his first match of the tourney last Tuesday, Hoh outlasted Japan's Keisuke Fujiwara, 21-19, 21-16.

In an interview after the awards ceremony, Hoh said he felt very happy with his win after he settled for second place in the first tournament. He said he felt sad about the finals last week as there was an issue with the umpire that resulted in a crucial call against his favor, but in this tourney, he's excited and happy with his win.

In the finals this time around, he said, "I competed my very best and today, I won." With his close call in the second set that almost resulted in a third, he said, "I was rushing because I wanted to win. I made a lot of simple mistakes for myself. But then finally in the end, I just won it."

On the difference in his game during the second tourney compared to the first, he said, "it's not that different but it was all about body conditioning. It's a back-to-back tournament so it's quite tough for me, mindset-wise and physically."

LEIGH GASES

Men's singles champion No. 5 seed Justin Hoh of Malaysia, left, poses with runner-up Japan's Ryoma Muramoto during the awards ceremony of the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Even with that, in this final tourney, he said, "my body was tired but I just focused step by step."

He will next take on the 2024 Baoji China Masters in August.

Results of the women's singles, mixed doubles, women's doubles, and men's doubles will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	57	38	.600	–
New York	58	39	.598	–
Boston	52	42	.553	4½
Tampa Bay	47	48	.495	10
Toronto	43	52	.453	14
Central Division				
Cleveland	58	36	.617	–
Minnesota	54	41	.568	4½
Kansas City	52	44	.542	7
Detroit	46	50	.479	13
Chicago	27	70	.278	32½
West Division				
Seattle	52	45	.536	–
Houston	50	45	.526	1
Texas	45	50	.474	6
Los Angeles	40	55	.421	11
Oakland	36	61	.371	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	62	33	.653	–
Atlanta	52	42	.553	9½
New York	49	45	.521	12½
Washington	44	52	.458	18½
Miami	32	63	.337	30
Central Division				
Milwaukee	54	42	.563	–
St. Louis	50	45	.526	3½
Pittsburgh	47	48	.495	6½
Cincinnati	47	49	.490	7
Chicago	46	51	.474	8½
West Division				
Los Angeles	56	40	.583	–
San Diego	50	48	.510	7
Arizona	49	47	.510	7
San Francisco	46	50	.479	10
Colorado	33	63	.344	23

SBL STANDINGS

Falcons	8	0		
Cardinals	7	2		
Padres	5	2		
Bandits	5	2		
Braves	5	3		
Sandlot	5	3		
Royals	4	4		
Blue Jays	4	4		
Bears	4	5		
D-9er's	2	5		
White Sox	2	5		
Natives	0	7		
Blue Shark	0	9		

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Krejcikova beats Paolini for her second Grand Slam trophy
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brunson agrees to a 4-year, $156.5M extension with Knicks
PAGE 15

Hoh redeems himself with men's singles title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

In the culmination of two Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournaments on Saipan, men's singles No. 5 seed Justin Hoh of Malaysia redeemed himself in the finals of the Dove Saipan International 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, after losing in the finals of the previous Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024.

The 20-year-old faced off against Japan's Ryoma Muramoto—who was unseeded but eliminated top bet and first-time Olympian Viren Nettasinghe in the quarter finals last Friday. On the same day, Muramoto made his way to the finals after another upset against No. 4 seed Riku Hatano.

Hoh put his best foot forward, however, and was hungry for redemption as he doused Muramoto's flame and momentum in the first set, 21-16.

Muramoto's firepower was reignited in the crucial second set and kept pace with Hoh early on. Draws and just 1-point leads lasted until they were tied at 6-6, when Hoh

See HOH on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

Men's singles No. 5 seed Justin Hoh of Malaysia leaps for a smash during the second set of his finals against Ryoma Muramoto in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan— the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Blue Jays drowns Blue Shark, 10-0

NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

Lefty Blue Jays pitcher Benjamin "Benji" Palacios in action during a game in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Blue Jays drowned Blue Shark in a 10-0 shutout game in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Southpaw pitcher Benjamin "Benji" Palacios put up another dominant performance on the mound for the Blue Jays in five innings as he shut down the Blue Shark lineup. Blue Jays ace Kevin Kapileo then wrapped the game up in the last inning with three straight Blue Sharks retired.

The pitching staff was backed up by the Blue Jays' offense which exploded in the third inning.

Jun Salalila got things going after he got on base and scored after a fielding error during his nephew, James Salalila's at-bat. James also scored on a breakdown of Blue Shark defense to make it 2-0.

The first out was registered but two more consecutive runs would be scored by Terrel Rabago and Frankie Lieto for a 4-0 game. Shane Mallens then scored the fifth run before the third out was made.

Blue Sharks' offense was left dead in the water at this point, as they've only recorded three hits against the youngster Palacios.

They attempted to get something going after Jason Reached third base, a base on ball to Ian Iriarte, and a single by Ignacio Palacios, but the Blue Jays' lefty managed to induce the third out from a fielder's choice to hold off the runner from scoring.

The Blue Jays went on to score three in the fourth to break the game wide open, 8-0. Blue Shark pitching was gassed out but managed to silence them in the fifth. However, two more runs would score for the Blue Jays in the last inning for the eventual 10-0 final.

With their win, the Blue Jays are now at an even .500 with a record of 4-4.

In their makeup game from June 11, the Bandits broke down the Padres, 9-5, last Thursday.

In the standings, the Falcons are one win away to clinch the pennant. They are at an undefeated record of 8-0; the Cardinals have with a record of 7-2; Padres and Bandits are at 5-2 each; Braves and Sandlot are both 5-3; Royals are at an even 4-4; Bears are 4-5; D-9er's and White Sox both are 2-5; Natives have no wins and seven losses; and Blue Shark are at nine losses.

Capitol Hill tennis court to be striped for pickleball

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

The Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands will finally have a dedicated pickleball court with the resurfacing of the tennis court on Capitol Hill for that purpose.

"This is the most exciting announcement I have shared with you since we striped the courts at the American Memorial Park. We have been working toward dedicated pickleball courts for quite a while, and our efforts are beginning to bear fruit. The Saipan Mayor's Office and Division of Parks and Recreation are letting us resurface the old tennis court into four dedicated pickleball courts. We are seeking bids for resurfacing the court, new fencing, and new lighting. These courts will be the place to play on Saipan!" said PFNMI president Nelson Krum in an email to members.

MARK RABAGO

Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands president Nelson Krum, left, in action in a tournament on the Capitol Hill tennis courts.

He added that Triple J Saipan has committed money for the resurfacing project and that PFNMI is looking for other sponsors for the lights and fence. The Northern Mariana Sports Association has also committed some money toward the lights.

"Please thank Sean Ficke (Triple J Motors general manager) for his work with Triple J, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and Parks and Recreation! Teamwork makes the dream work," said Krum.

To this end, Krum said the Saipan Mayor's Office has scheduled the formal announcement for the dedicated pickleball courts on Capitol Hill for July 19 at 2pm. The ceremony will take place at the court behind the baseball field on Capitol Hill.

He said no less than Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho will grace the occasion.

"We want a strong turnout of our members to show support, and we will have some of the membership playing on the existing courts."